







Future uncertain: pensioners from Maxwell companies applaud a speaker at a rally at Westminster Central Hall yesterday after lobbying Parliament

## Pensions rescue is a victory for all-party group of MPs

THE government's change of mind on giving financial help to thousands of Maxwell pensioners is due largely to increased pressure in recent weeks from an all-party group of MPs.

Richard Page, Tory MP for Herefordshire South West, decided to set up the group shortly after the general election and asked Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, to join him. They galvanised about 100 MPs, including five or six ministers, who had Maxwell pensioners in their constituencies.

Mr Page said that his action had been prompted by

Jill Sherman on how pressure from the Commons led to yesterday's announcement of help for Maxwell's victims

the plight of his constituents. "I am just next to Watford where hundreds of pensioners found that the money they were getting was running out." He asked for a Commons debate or statement back in February but none was forthcoming.

Going from door to door during the election campaign, he became even more aware of pensioners' grievances. "When we got back to the Commons still nothing

happened. I thought blow this for a game of soldiers, I better do something.

"I circulated a whole lot of Tory MPs to see if they were interested in coming along to a meeting on Maxwell, and then thought I should make it cross party, so I asked Frank if he would co-chair the group, so that we could get the Labour MPs on board."

Mr Field, who chaired the Commons social security select committee in the last

parliament, has been pushing the government for greater protection for pensioners for over a year. His committee had already launched an occupational pensions enquiry when Maxwell died.

After the discovery that more than £400 million had been plundered from Maxwell pension funds, the select committee called the Maxwell sons, Kevin and Ian, to give evidence, ensuring publicity for the pensioners' plight. The report was highly critical of the self-regulatory systems controlling pension funds and urged a review of pension legislation.

The all-party group's first meeting of more than 70 MPs was hastily convened on May 12 off Westminster Hall. The following week Mr Page and Mr Field met Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, and asked him to set up a trust fund to protect the pension funds that were running out of money. Mr Lilley stonewalled their calls for financial help arguing that the banks should be pressed to return the missing assets.

He was acutely aware, however, of an imminent report about the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, which was expected to be highly critical. With growing pressure from the all-party group, two pensioners' lobbies at Westminster and the Labour debate on the Maxwell pensioners called for today, Mr Lilley decided it was time to act.

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## Airports plan to double space given to shops

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S leading airports, already with more retail outlets than one side of Oxford Street, plan to cash in on air passengers' seemingly insatiable demand for last minute bargains by doubling the amount of space allocated to shopping.

In the coming year BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority, expects to earn more from its shops than from the charges it levies on airlines to use Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Glasgow and Aberdeen.

"Passengers like to shop at airports," said Sir John Egan, BAA chief executive. "Our research has shown that shoes are especially popular and Bally, for example, now sells more shoes per square foot in Heathrow than it does in any of its other shops in Britain." Shirts, ties, chemists goods and luxury items are also high on the list of priorities for the itinerant visitor to airports. There are 350 shops in Oxford Street or 175 a side. BAA has 180.

As a result of the surge in airport spending — up 10 per cent last year despite the recession — BAA plans to open another 90 retail shops and 100 restaurants this year.

The drive to boost income from shopping stems from a complicated pricing formula imposed on BAA by the Civil Aviation Authority which forces them to cut charges to airlines in real terms. Heathrow is already 21st in the

league table of 40 airports whose charges have been tabulated by consultants Travers Morgan. Gatwick is 27th. Within the next three years, said Sir John, Britain would be the cheapest country in the world to land a jet except for a few in the third world.

Income from shops is not, however, affected by the formula and many of the leading High Street retailers have now been persuaded to rent floor space in both the "aisle" and "landside" areas. Research has proved that returning foreign visitors make up the bulk of the customers at airport shops. Japanese spend on average ten times as much as any other nationality with the Swedes and the Irish also among the keenest buyers.

BAA's 72 million passengers spend, on average, £6 each in the airport shops.

### CORRECTION

In our report (June 2) of the Lord Chief Justice's proposals on sentencing of reckless drivers we referred to the tragic deaths of Darryl Coppin and Lisa Morrell and stated that relatives had stormed the dock when the driver was sentenced. In fact, neither Mr nor Mrs Coppin was present in court and did not storm the dock then or at any other time. We apologise for any distress and embarrassment this may have caused.

## Camps divided as pupils sit tests

Ministers rallied to the defence of new national curriculum tests yesterday as half a million 14-year-olds faced the first pilot round of examinations for their age category and teaching unions warned that the tests were pointless and impractical.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers said that the pencil and paper tests were a 30-year step into the past. "The practical side — so important in science — has been ignored. The introduction of these pilot tests has been a catalogue of woe". The science curriculum, he said, had been changed eight times and schools had received three different versions.

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said that the tests were "a massive, stressful exercise of dubious validity", which would be even less acceptable next year, as the number of subjects taken increased. "Students will be expected to sit 21-24 hours of exams which is more than you'd expect from a finals student".

John Patten, the education secretary, speaking on Radio 4's *Today* programme, said of Mr Sutton's comments: "They are irresponsible because 14-year-olds pay attention to the media and their attitude to these tests may be undermined on this of all days when they are taking them. Parents might have expected support for their children. I am sure that most teachers are doing just that and will condemn this antiquated and luddite trade union outburst".

More than 80 per cent of state schools have entered pupils for the tests, which are not yet compulsory, although about 50 per cent of independent schools did not participate. Candidates sat examinations in science yesterday, to be followed by mathematics today. Fourteen-year-olds will next year face compulsory tests in both subjects and in English.

Baroness Blatch, the education minister, denied that schools were regretting their participation in the trial tests. "What we are finding is that the children take these tests in their stride and, indeed, the teachers are learning quite a lot from them".

## Halford says officer provoked argument

Alison Halford, one of Britain's most senior woman police officers, said yesterday that a fellow assistant chief constable had deliberately started an argument with her to block her promotion chances. She said that Ernie Miller, in charge of crime in the Merseyside force where she was head of complaints and discipline, had sworn at her in 1989 during an argument over an investigation into the death of a gunman in a police chase.

Miss Halford, 52, is claiming before a Manchester industrial tribunal that while seeking promotion she was discriminated against by the Merseyside chief constable James Sharples; the regional inspector of constabulary; the home secretary and Northamptonshire police authority.

A few weeks before her argument with Mr Miller, she had been told in an interview with HM Inspectorate of Constabulary that she would not win promotion without an unequivocally good recommendation from her chief constable "and any row would stop that from happening". She said that the investigation that caused the dispute had nothing to do with Mr Miller but "I now suspect ... he was beginning to go out of his way to make trouble for me knowing that would be a bar to further promotion. I didn't have rows with my colleagues. It seemed very coincidental that this should happen." The tribunal continues today.

## Printer 'ruined firm'

A printer who thought that his employers were trying to avoid paying him £2,000 he believed he was owed hacked into the firm's computer and disabled the machine, Southwark Crown Court, south London was told yesterday. Richard Goulden, 35, a freelance typesetter, of Uxbridge, west London, who had used a password that only he knew, refused to free the computer until the firm, Ampersand Typesetting Ltd, of Camden, north London, had paid up. The company refused and, after allegedly losing more than £36,000 of business because it did not have access to information on the computer, went bankrupt. The prosecution claims that Mr Goulden's action contributed to the bankruptcy. Mr Goulden denies illegal modification of computer material under the 1990 Computer Misuse Act.

## X-ray vision improved

An X-ray machine which, it is claimed, can detect with the greatest accuracy bombs and weapons hidden in luggage was shown at an international security conference at the Royal Society in London yesterday. Engineers from Nottingham Polytechnic have taken advanced image-processing methods to bridge the gap between what an X-ray scanner sees and what a human eye can distinguish by, for example, removing some shades of grey so that the boundaries between shades and shapes become sharper. The device, developed after a request by customs and excise officials for a better method of screening for drugs, has been developed by engineers at Nottingham. The scanner can be added to existing X-ray equipment, which should mean that the machine is cheap and easily installed.

## Joint coal bid proposed



A miners' union leader suggested yesterday that its members might link with colliery managers to stage a buy-out of British Coal. The Union of Democratic Mineworkers plans to submit two bids — one for the whole coal industry and another just for Midlands pits. Roy Lynk, left, the union president, told the group's annual conference in Weymouth that he saw no problem in working with the British Association of Colliery Managers which is also interested in bidding. He said the industry had to unite.

## Nuisance neighbour

David Linley, 47, reduced at least one neighbour to a nervous wreck in a six-year campaign of attrition and was arrested for his own protection. Swindon magistrates were told yesterday. Margaret Brown said that Mr Linley, unemployed, complained about noise from her budgerigars, told her son she was a whore and photographed her as she hung out washing. Sgt Thomas Stevens said: "I formed the opinion that Mr Linley was a nuisance and he was causing distress to Mrs Brown and her neighbours. I thought that someone would go and thump him. I believed that if I did not arrest him, there would have been a breach of the peace." Mr Linley claimed that police had persuaded Mrs Brown to complain, but the case against him was found proven. He was bound over to keep the peace for 18 months.

## Detective beaten up

A detective sergeant from Scotland Yard's flying squad was beaten with an iron bar in an attack by four car thieves. The 34-year-old officer suffered a fractured skull. He was off duty when he approached two of the men after seeing them tampering with a car in the Rushmore area of Woburn Green, Buckinghamshire. As he spoke to them, their accomplices crept up on him from behind, pulled his jacket over his head and beat him about the head and body. Thames Valley Police said: "He has been taken to hospital for treatment and has been detained."

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## Media divides as it chases after the royal ratpack

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE row over allegations in Andrew Morton's book about the Princess of Wales's marriage has brought to the fore not only the tensions and rivalries within the tabloid ratpack, but also those between tabloids and broadsheets, and broadsheets and broadcasters.

Television journalists have never resorted to the tactics of the tabloid correspondents for "exclusives" about the private lives of the royal family. Yet rarely have they failed to report such royal scoops — once screaming tabloid headlines have put them in the public domain.

Circulation wars, ratpack behaviour, questions of taste and decency and debate about what is "in the public interest" have long provided useful backdrops for reporting in full the sensational allegations carried in tabloid royal reports.

To lenses — to their tabloid counterparts. But neither broadsheets nor broadcasters have shrunk from disparaging such prurient tabloid journalism as a "news peg" to justify repeating in full those very allegations.

That it was a broadsheet, *The Sunday Times*, that broke the story through its serialisation of Andrew Mor-

ton's forthcoming book — leaving tabloids to feign their own "exclusives" — has become cause for lengthy comment that *The Sunday Times* has itself become a tabloid by indulging in such palace speculation.

"It's just sour grapes," said Ashley Walton, royal ratpacker for the *Daily Express*. "The broadsheets al-

ways use the facts the next day but feel justified in doing it only by sneering at the tabloids."

Yesterday the ratpack found an unlikely ally in the editor of BBC Television news programmes, who criticised such broadsheet double standards. Peter Bell said: "The BBC is determined not to hide behind the media wars

issue as a way of enabling us to repeat at length allegations on private lives we cannot substantiate."

Until ITN stunned royal observers last May by broadcasting pictures of the princess swimming during her trip to Cairo, taken from a high rise building, television news bulletins have tended to be more restrained than the

broadsheets with royal coverage. Mr Walton said: "Sky News, and increasingly ITN, are going beyond the Fleet Street at its worst line to resort to tabloid reporting techniques. They have even begun to doorstep royals."

But David Mannion, editor of ITN output on ITV, denied that ITN had resorted to knocking on doors over the Princess of Wales allegations. "As journalists we are always interested in scoops. But we do not regard it as part of our business to interfere and be intrusive unless there is genuine public interest and concern," he said.

ITN led its Saturday night bulletin with the suicide and bulimia allegations when the BBC chose to ignore it altogether. The BBC mentioned the story briefly on Friday night.

*The Independent*, which as a matter of policy gives only the briefest coverage of royal stories, yesterday finally felt compelled to speculate on its front page about the implications of a royal divorce.

This is a stiff test for the press. If it fails, we recommend that a statutory system for handling complaints should be introduced.

"The duty of the commission is to interpret and uphold the letter and spirit of the self-disciplinary ethical code of practice framed by the press and accepted by all proprietors and editors."

"The commission recognise that fierce competition among newspapers is a necessary condition of economic health and hence of independence which must rest on profitability. Nevertheless, the code of practice provides the framework of decency within which all competitors must work."

## Commission condemns intrusion

THE following is the entire text of the statement issued by the Press Complaints Commission on the recent newspaper coverage of the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales:

"The most recent intrusive and speculative treatment by sections of the press (and, indeed, by broadcasters) of the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales is an odious exhibition of journalists jabbing their fingers in the stuff of other people's souls in a manner which adds nothing to legitimate public interest in the situation of the heir to the throne."

"Such prurient reporting must add to the burdens borne by children whose lives

are affected and greatly increase the difficulties for members of the royal family in carrying out their obligations to the public."

"The state of the marriage has been put into the public domain in part at least by the outward behaviour of the spouses and it is therefore a legitimate subject within the public interest for report and comment by the press. As the industry's own code of practice affirms, the manner in which information is reported and the tone in which it is discussed often matter as much as the substance of the stories themselves."

"Frequently, the manner and tone of the reporting of the private lives of the Prince

and Princess of Wales has beyond doubt been in breach of the code of practice."

"The commission have been distressed by this revision by some newspapers to the worst excesses of the 1980s and are bound to state publicly their view that the continuance of this type of journalism will threaten the future of self-regulation just at the time when it appears to be succeeding."

"The newspaper and periodical industry set up the PCC in accordance with the Calcutt committee's recommendation that the press should be given 'one last chance to demonstrate that non-statutory self-regulation can be made to work effectively. This is a stiff test for the press. If it fails, we recommend that a statutory system for handling complaints should be introduced."

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## Death crash lorry driver may have been asleep

By CRAIG SETON

THE driver of an articulated lorry may have been asleep when he crashed at 65mph into a queue of traffic on the M42, killing six people, it was alleged at Birmingham crown court yesterday.

Vincent Parsons, 26, of Clarendon, Newport, Gwent, denies six charges of causing death by reckless driving in November 1990.

He had about 20 seconds to bring his lorry to a halt or change lane — but his foot never left the accelerator as it ploughed into ten vehicles, causing several to burst into flames, the court was told.

Christopher Hosten, for the prosecution, said that Mr Parsons' lorry was carrying 20 tonnes of steel bars on the northbound carriageway of the motorway when it approached a traffic tailback several hundred yards long caused by roadworks at junction six, near Birmingham.

"His foot never left the accelerator," he said. "He did not swerve or change lane. He continued at 65mph straight into the rear of the queue. What followed was

carnage. Eleven vehicles were involved, including Mr Parsons', and several were engulfed in flames."

The court heard that three of the six victims of the crash were burnt beyond recognition and the carriage was closed for many hours, but Mr Parsons was able to walk away. Mr Hosten said that Mr Parsons took his attention away from the road for one of several possible reasons: he was tired and lost concentration; or he fell asleep.

Another lorry driver, Andrew Parkinson, told the court that he did not see Mr Parsons apply his brakes once before the crash, which had happened on a clear day and in dry conditions. Mr Parkinson said he was travelling in the second lane when he saw a van with its hazard warning lights flashing. He had slowed down. He added: "The lorry just kept going. I expected him to pull out, but he kept going."

The six who died were Justyn Mantle, of Stourbridge, West Midlands; Robert Hodgson, of Sheldon, Birmingham; David Giles, a sales manager, of Tamworth, Staffordshire; Patrick Crozier-Cole, of Salisbury, Wiltshire; Michael Sparkes, of Claverdon, Warwickshire, and Lee Jephcott, of Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire.

Alan Russell, from South Normanton, Derby, said that after the crash he saw a lorry on top of a car which had been waiting behind his vehicle. He told the court that the lorry's driver, who was trying to get out of his cab, had said: "Oh my God, what have I done?" and burst into tears.

Donald Moseley, from Rugeley, Staffordshire, was a passenger in a car driven by David Giles, who died in the crash. "Other cars pulled up behind us. The next thing I remember was being trapped in the burning car. I was rescued and taken away from the car before it exploded," he said.

The trial continues today.



On guard: a police marksman at the scene of the Yorkshire attack yesterday

## Police hunt for clues to IRA Yorkshire attack

The shooting of two Yorkshire policemen has activated national anti-terrorism machinery, Stewart Tendler writes

SPECIAL computer lines were humming yesterday between North Yorkshire police and the anti-terrorism branch high in Scotland Yard as details of the latest IRA attack were fed to a special data bank. State-ments and information gathered in Yorkshire will be matched against details of over 30 other incidents in the IRA's present mainland campaign.

The link was set up as part of national machinery for handling terrorist incidents, which came into operation within hours of the shooting of two policemen in North Yorkshire. Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the anti-terrorism branch and national anti-terrorism co-ordinator, can be called in by local forces to advise on investigations and the search of a bomb scene.

The force at the centre of the incident remains responsible for investigations. It works alongside the Yard, and, if small, can also borrow officers from neighbouring forces for large operations such as searches. West Yorkshire has already offered manpower to its smaller neighbour.

The Association of Chief Police Officers maintains a terrorism committee under the chairmanship of Brian Johnson, chief constable of Lancashire, the association's current president. The committee meets quarterly to co-ordinate strategy, and members are likely to formally discuss the North Yorkshire shooting at a national Acpo conference starting tomorrow.

The issue for chief constables and the Yard is what the two men were doing in Yorkshire and why were they so determined not to be stopped. The men may have been visiting an arms dump in the area. Explosives were found hidden near Scarborough two years ago shortly before a Conservative conference. The fact that the men set fire to their car before escaping suggests that they were trying

to destroy evidence, including fingerprints.

The area has many military posts that might be targets. The men may have been on their way through Yorkshire after scouting a possible target or heading further north. Newcastle has seen a spate of firebomb attacks, suggesting that the IRA has chosen the area for operations.

Some of the answers lie in long-term analysis of the IRA's battle plan. Later this year, M15 will take overall responsibility for IRA intelligence and this area of analysis. Discussions about the machinery are under way between the security service and the Yard's special branch. The government plan means that M15 would oversee the build-up of material on the IRA. It will not investigate crimes, which will remain a police responsibility.

● A severe blow may be dealt to the IRA today in Geneva, where a Libyan official is due to hand to Britain a document detailing Libya's history of links with the organisation (Christopher Walker writes).

No details of the extent of the information have been disclosed, but Whitehall hopes that it may give a much-needed boost to intelligence on IRA personnel and arms stocks.

Interest will centre on how much of nearly 1,000 tonnes of Semtex explosive sold to Tripoli by Czechoslovakia's former communist rulers in 1981 has reached the IRA. President Vaclav Havel once described the shipment as enough to last world terrorism 150 years.

Since 1987, when French customs seized the Irish freighter Eksund, loaded with Libyan arms destined for the IRA, Britain has been seeking information to enable it to capture leading IRA men and to trace earlier shipments.

IRA admits attack, page 1

## Tory asks PM to protect agent

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A CONSERVATIVE MP has appealed to the prime minister to ensure that an agent of army intelligence in Northern Ireland, sent to prison for ten years in February on five charges of conspiracy to murder, is guaranteed lifetime protection by the security authorities.

The agent, Brian Nelson, described during his trial by one of his military handlers, a British army colonel, as "a very courageous man", is at the centre of new claims that he was involved in other alleged murders and conspiracies. The allegations were made in a BBC Panorama programme last night.

Rupert Allason, MP for Torbay, said the arrest and conviction of Nelson set a "dangerous precedent" which could put off other informants from providing vital intelligence on terrorist activities in Ulster. Nelson worked undercover for the army while he was an intelligence officer for the paramilitary UDA.

One of the new allegations is that army intelligence officers kept secret a plot to murder a prominent Belfast solicitor after being tipped off by Nelson. Paddy McGorry represented the families of the three IRA bombers shot dead by the SAS in Gibraltar in March 1988. He said yesterday that he was warned about the death threat only three months after Nelson had been arrested. He claimed police in Ulster had difficulty extracting information about the alleged plot from the army.

The threat emerged after a box of intelligence files compiled by Nelson on Roman Catholic and republican suspects was seized by a team of detectives headed by John Stevens, then the deputy chief constable of Cambridge, who had been sent to Northern Ireland to investigate allegations of collusion between the Royal Ulster Constabulary and Loyalist paramilitaries.

Nelson is still in an isolation cell at the top security Crumlin Road jail in Belfast, awaiting transfer to a prison on the mainland.

## Woman says love drove her to kill

By RICHARD DUCE

A WOMAN soldier told a court yesterday that her love for an army captain was like a drug addiction and drove her to kill his wife.

Susan Christie, 23, a Greenfinch in the Ulster Defence Regiment, said that she saw Penny McAllister, 24, as a victim of her affair with Captain Duncan McAllister of the Royal Signals. She admits slitting her throat as they walked together in a forest near Ballynahinch, co. Down, last March.

"I would say that I killed her for Duncan. I mean to get Duncan for myself," Christie told Downpatrick Crown Court. "She was never hostile. She was always so nice to me."

Christie denies murder. Her defence is that she had a psychiatric disorder and was of diminished responsibility at the time of the killing. The prosecution has refused to accept her plea of guilty to manslaughter.

Christie, who says that she was a virgin until her affair with Captain McAllister, said that her love for him was "like a drug you can't do without". She said that she had confronted him, believing that she was pregnant, and he had replied that he would deny being the father and would never leave his wife.

"I was very much in love with him. He was all I ever thought about. At the time I thought he was in love with me," she said.

Peter Smith, QC, who yesterday opened Christie's defence, told the jury: "At the time of the killing she was suffering a mental abnormality which the defence say you will be satisfied substantially impaired her sense of responsibility." The defence intends to call two psychiatrists.

The trial continues today.

## Child abuse victims should stay at home, judge says

By JEREMY LAURANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SOCIAL workers who remove child-abuse victims from their homes for their own protection may be doing more harm than good, a leading legal expert said last night.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, whose 1987 report of the enquiry into the Cleveland sex-abuse scandal, which she chaired, is now a standard work on the subject, said that many such children were better off left at home than facing the trauma of separation from their families.

She said that "administrative" abuse by professionals should be added to the suffering the child has already endured, causing it to be "victimised twice, once by being abused and twice by being taken away from home". But the lessons "still do not seem to filter through", she said.

Some of her remarks are likely to prove controversial. Delivering the Royal Society of Medicine's annual lecture

to the laity, Lord Butler-Sloss said that there was frequently a risk to be evaluated as to whether a child victim of physical abuse might be in danger if left at home, but that "such a risk rarely arises in sexual abuse". It is, however, "upsetting for the caring adult, whether doctor, social worker or other professional, to allow a child to remain in a sexually abusing situation. In

the initial stages of investigation I should like to see children remaining at home and the alleged abuser leaving with financial support while the whole thing is sorted out," she said.

She also hinted that sex offenders might be better dealt with within the family. The Children Act was improving matters but "insufficient attention is being paid to continuing help for abused children", she said.

Ian White, president of the Association of Directors of Social Services, said that Lord Butler-Sloss had identified important issues but social workers could not take too many risks. "We need to support the family but we also have to take a very hard-nosed view of the risks. The worry I have is that we may underplay the need to protect the child and go too far in protecting the family."

Children Act, Law Times, L&T section, page 25



Butler-Sloss: removing child adds to trauma

## Science debunks anti-age creams

WHO can be blamed for splashing out on expensive face lotions to disprove W.S. Gilbert's line in *Ruddigore* that he could tell a woman's age in half a minute? Thousands of women spend up to £40 a time on so called anti-ageing face lotions, but a survey today says there is no scientific evidence to support the wilder claims of cosmetic companies.

Which? Way to Health magazine asked a panel of dermatologists to test six leading anti-ageing face lotions. Christian Dior's Capture Complex liposomes as a "bio-technical innovation" that stimulates the renewal of cells and firms the skin. But the dermatologists were unimpressed. One said: "It's make-believe... it won't get through the skin's surface." The magazine says: "If a cream can encourage skin cells to replicate... old skin by new then in theory it could also encourage others such as cancer cells."

Seeking youth in a jar of cream is a waste of money and a scientific nonsense, say experts. Nicholas Watt reports

Clarins claims that its Double Serum postpones the ageing process and restores elasticity and suppleness to the skin. The experts rounded on such claims. "It cannot minimise the effects of the ageing process," one dermatologist said.

One professor of dermatology, who was involved in the survey and wanted to remain anonymous, said: "These expensive moisturisers are just hope in a pot. The companies' claims cannot be substantiated and dermatologists certainly do not use them."

As people age the skin loosens as the dermis, the scaffolding layer, withers. Some of the cosmetic companies claim their products penetrate the outer layer of the skin. Dermatologists said that if that were true

the lotions should be licensed as medicines.

Which? says that all moisturisers are an emulsion of oil and water which can temporarily trap moisture to reduce wrinkles. "All the products do this but cheap ones do it too," the magazine says.

The magazine says sunscreens are the most useful anti-ageing aid. Sunlight damages the lower layers of skin. Dr John McFadden, senior registrar at St Thomas's Hospital in London, said: "There is no question that the Victorian models who protected themselves from the sun were wise."

Which? says the cosmetic companies are adept at advertising their claims without breaking the law. "The only requirement for claims... is that they should not be

misleading. Many of their claims are left vague and our wishful thinking does the rest," it says.

The companies also do not have to list all the ingredients in the lotions. The magazine says: "Most of us don't know what we're buying — bad news for the one to three per cent whose skin reacts painfully to certain ingredients."

Women were divided yesterday about the merit of the lotions. Nathalie King admitted that she was hooked to Clinique's moisturiser. "I'm susceptible to the marketing and I wouldn't be without it."

But Caroline Morse said that she did not spend money on expensive anti-ageing lotions. "I think that moisturising, both for men and women, does keep skin more supple and therefore younger looking. But you don't need to buy the expensive anti-ageing lotions."

Leading article, page 13

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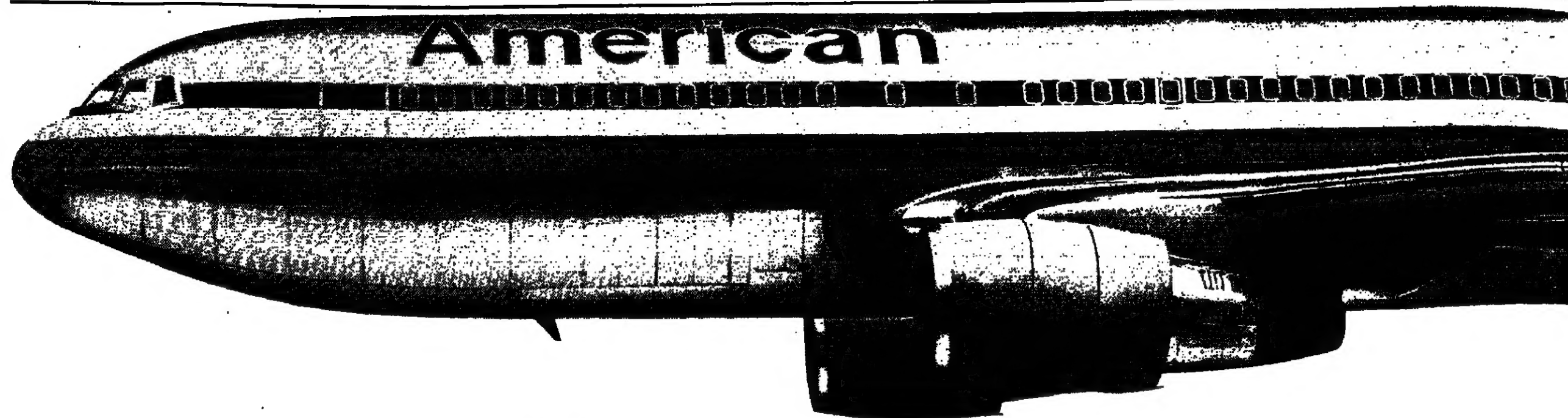
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## Resort's GPs put on their business hats in pursuit of joint fundholding deal

## Doctors opt to put all patients on fast track

BY ALISON ROBERTS

AN EAST Sussex resort will be the first entire town to opt into the general practitioner fundholding scheme. All 24 GPs in Bexhill-on-Sea expect government approval for their consortium-run venture, now in its preparatory year, and have received a cautious welcome from the British Medical Association, which has consistently opposed fundholding in the past.

The five practices, with a patient list of 43,000 between them, of whom 40 per cent are over 65, will manage four funds with the help of a business manager, a board of directors and a sophisticated database containing details of patient needs and service providers. Although each practice will be financially independent, funds will be managed centrally and negotiation with service providers will be performed on behalf of the consortium. The alliance is the first on such a large scale and effectively withdraws the Bexhill GP service from health authority control. The GPs will buy services from hospitals in Eastbourne, Hastings, Tonbridge Wells and Bexhill.

Neil Coxhead, the fund manager who has been recruited from the retail sector, is beginning to negotiate contracts, although budgets will not be set until the autumn. The aim will be for quality care at competitive prices. Roger Elias, a Bexhill GP and a board director, said: "Mr Coxhead is like a terrier snapping at providers' ankles."

Dr Elias said that, even at this early stage, hospital attitudes were changing. "We had seen the services cut in the hospital in Bexhill and felt that the patients were getting a raw deal. Goodwill from hospitals has suddenly magically appeared now

that we will have the money," he said.

Dr Elias was not always in favour of fundholding and still thinks that the system can be divisive. When all the doctors in an area are fundholders, however, the possibility of a local two-tier system disappears. At the same time the competitive benefits may be lost. "Clearly, if we had only one hospital nearby with which to bargain there would have been no point in us all becoming fundholders," Dr Elias said.

John Chisholm, deputy chairman of the BMA's GPs committee, said that political reality was forcing the association to accept parts of the fundholding philosophy. A two-tier system could not exist in an area covered solely by fundholding doctors, he said. However, Dr Chisholm voiced doubts about the small scale fundholding model. "There is no doubt that the first and second waves of fundholders have been resourced sufficiently in the short term. That had a political impetus behind it. More and more these GPs are going to be coming up against the hard facts of life and finding that there is a cash limit."

Peter Dewhurst, a GP and the founder of the Bexhill consortium, said that computer records would tell the doctors which patient was waiting for a specific operation and how long they had been waiting. The information would provide a firm basis from which to argue for extra cash, he said. Dr Dewhurst and Dr Chisholm both wanted to see a closer dialogue between GP and consultant.

Dr Dewhurst said that the Bexhill fundholders would try to maintain a good relationship with the service providers in the interests of their patients.



Medical advance: Dr Roger Elias, out on his rounds yesterday, is heading for a new era of patient care in Bexhill-on-Sea

## Are GPs diving for pearls or fool's gold?

GIVING GPs their own hospital budget remains the riskiest and least predictable of the government's NHS reforms. No other issue has provoked wider disagreement among doctors, managers and health analysts. Some believe the scheme will destabilise the NHS while others maintain that it provides the "grit in the oyster" that will allow the reforms to fulfill their true purpose.

The appeal of the scheme, however, cannot be denied. In this respect, the government has scored a victory over the doom-mongers of the British Medical Association and other health organisations. By next April, more than 1,000 practices

are expected to have joined the scheme, covering a quarter of the population.

A survey by the association found that 40 per cent of the GPs applying to become fundholders next April were against the scheme, but feared that their patients might lose out if they did not join. Most believe that holding their own funds will give them more clout with consultants. One of the first benefits of the reforms has been a transformation of the relationship between GPs and consultants, with the GPs in the ascendancy.

Fundholding has been good for patients, too. A Which? survey found that fundholding GPs offered bet-

ter and quicker treatment. One third said they got a faster service from hospitals on waiting lists and test results and almost as many non-fundholders surveyed agreed that hospitals gave priority to fundholders, lending weight to fears of a two-tier service. The "double standards" have been constantly criticised by opponents of the scheme but as the number of fundholders

increases, their individual clout is likely to diminish.

Defenders of the scheme claim that the first fundholders are blazing a trail, increasing accountability and switching the focus of care from the hospital to the community. Reducing the pre-eminence of hospitals is one of the main aims of the reforms, but fears remain that bringing budgets so close to the front line will undermine the GPs' role as patient's advocate in obtaining the best available hospital care. Critics argue that fundholders will have a financial incentive to select younger, healthier patients, and to under-refer. Small practices may be disadvan-

tagged, health authorities' purchasing power may be weakened and the planning of health care may become more difficult as resources are allocated on the basis of demand, not need.

Even senior members of the NHS management executive regard GP fundholding as a mess, but one out of which good things may grow. The idea was to draw GPs in with incentives rather than impose a rigid structure. This had the advantage of creating a climate in which non-fundholders felt they had to be a part of the scheme. But it was always recognised that adjustments, perhaps extensive ones, might have to be made.

## Julie Ward police accused of brutality

British detectives investigating the death in Kenya of Julie Ward assaulted and abused two Kenyans accused of murdering her, a defence lawyer said in the Nairobi High Court yesterday.

Githu Muigai said that the Scotland Yard detectives used "threats, intimidation and inducements" while questioning Jonah Magiroi, 28, and Peter Kipeen, 26, who are game rangers.

Prosecutors say that the rangers abducted Miss Ward, 28, a tourist in the Masai Mara game reserve, held her for several days in September 1988 and then murdered her. They face the death penalty if found guilty.

Mr Muigai told Det Supt David Shipperlee: "I put it to you that when you were showing a map to Magiroi you actually slapped him... And also Det Chief Supt Graham Searle kicked Magiroi in the ribs." Mr Shipperlee, who was called in to help Kenyan police after an inquest into Miss Ward's death ruled in 1989 that there had been foul play, said: "It's total nonsense."

## Murder police seek three men

Detectives investigating the murder of Katie Rackliff, 19, who was killed with a knife after she left a nightclub in Camberley, Surrey, early on Sunday want to interview three men.

Det Supt Ray Piper, said they were anxious to trace an Asian known locally as the "Korean kick boxer" and an Afro-Caribbean man who had his hair cut in the shape of an arrow. The third man was white, of average height and build with dark hair. He wore a white shirt with dark grey trousers, and was the last person seen talking to her.

## England chess hopes rise

England's chances in the Manila chess Olympics were given an unexpected boost yesterday when two key players, Karpov and Yusupov, withdrew from the top-seeded Russian team. The pull-outs gave England their best chance of winning the gold medals (Raymond Keene writes).

England suffered a setback in the first round against Singapore yesterday when Speelman lost, but England eventually won 3-1. Most of the other top teams, playing teams from the lower half of the table, won 4-0 or 3½-½.

## Morley tribute

Family and friends of Robert Morley gathered yesterday for a tribute to the actor, who died last week. The service was in the village of Wargrave, Berkshire, where Morley lived for more than 50 years. The actor's son, the theatre critic Sheridan Morley, delivered the address, in which he recalled his father's love of life, wit and joyfulness. "He was the happiest man I have ever met," he said.

## Gunner spared

Bow Street magistrates showed leniency on behalf of a "grateful country" towards an artilleryman, a veteran of the Gulf war, who got lost while driving in London and was found to be over the drink-drive limit. Mark Duncan, 21, of Kentish Town, north London, received a three-year conditional discharge with a one-year disqualification.

## Comedian fined

The comedian Freddie Starr was fined £110 with £35 costs and given three penalty points for driving at 100.1mph on the M5. Starr, 49, told magistrates at Cullumpton, Devon, that he needed his licence to take his wheelchair-bound mother to visit his father in a hospice.

## Dangers spelt out to young drinkers

BY DAVID YOUNG

AN AVERAGE of 20 people under the age of 15 are treated in hospital every week for acute alcohol intoxication according to the organisers of Drinkwise Day, who today aim to promote the sensible consumption of alcohol.

The ease with which youngsters gain access to alcohol has been shown by a survey which found that three-quarters of 11 to 14-year-olds would be able to help themselves to their parents' drinks cabinet if they wanted to. In a recent incident, the parents of a 12-year-old boy returned home to find that he had drunk half a bottle of vodka.

The Drinkwise campaign, sponsored by the Health Education Authority and run in association with Alcohol Concern, says that it is too easy for children to take a drink without their parents' knowledge.

A survey of 2,000 people found that 60 per cent of parents of 15 to 17-year-olds said that their sons and daughters could very easily get hold of drink in the home. A further 20 per cent said that access to alcohol would be quite easy. Among parents of 11 to 14-year-olds, 54 per cent said that their children could very easily have a drink. Another 20 per cent said they could drink quite easily.

The campaign organisers said that locking the drinks cabinet was not the solution. Dave Arnold, a Drinkwise co-ordinator who has two children, said: "The best way to show children how to handle alcohol is by the parents' example of sensible and appropriate drinking."

Parents are advised to keep calm if their teenage child comes home drunk. Wait for a more sober moment to talk of the dangers of over-the-top drinking, the campaign says. Doctors advise men not to drink more than 21 alcohol units a week and women not to exceed 14. A unit is equivalent to a small glass of wine or sherry, a pub measure of spirits, or half a pint of beer.

## Hanged teenager feared jail switch

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A TERRIFIED prison informer hanged himself after he learnt he was being moved to a jail with a violent gang that he had crossed, an inquest was told yesterday.

Johnny Cash, 18, from Acton, west London, was found dead in January at the Young Offenders' Institution, Feltham, west London. Ten days ago, a report by Judge Stephen Tumin, chief inspector of prisons, revealed widespread violence and bullying among prisoners and low morale among staff.

John Burton, the Hammer-smith coroner, told the jury that the week before his death Mr Cash had reported an assault on a cellmate. Because of that, he was moved to a segregation wing to protect him.

"He was a marked man with gangs inside the prison for being a grass," said Dr Burton. Another informant had told officers that Mr Cash had been beaten five days before he died.

At 7.45pm on the day he died, he was seen by an officer who was going off duty and was found an hour and five minutes later, hanging by a sheet from his upturned bed. No suicide note was found but officers discovered a razor

blade in an envelope and he had scratches on his wrists.

Dr Susan Claydon, a pathologist, said death was caused by self suspension and she had ruled out the possibility that somebody else had throttled Mr Cash. Marks around his mouth had been self-inflicted.

Although officers at Bow Road police station had filled in an exceptional risk form when Mr Cash had attempted to slash his wrists in November last year, Arthur Thompson, the duty day governor at Feltham, had been unaware of such a document. This form should have gone with Mr Cash when he returned to Feltham and he should have been reassessed as a suicide risk.

Mr Thompson, who authorised Mr Cash's removal to the segregation unit, said the prisoner was "excitable". During a 15-minute interview, he had told Mr Cash that his transfer to Rochester Prison would be reassessed. There was no sign that Mr Cash intended to harm himself. Mr Cash had told him he knew people at Rochester with whom he had been in trouble.

The hearing continues today.



Road test: Greta Shepherd, Woman Lorry Driver of the Year, home after touring Europe investigating the single market for a series due on BBC1

## Puttnam pleads for woodland

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

AN APPEAL for £85,000 to fund campaigning for Britain's woods and forests has been launched by David Puttnam, the film-maker, in his farewell message as president of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, a post he has held for seven years.

In a letter to the council's 45,000 members, Mr Puttnam says that he finds it incredible that between 30 and 50 per cent of Britain's ancient and semi-natural woodland, "the very heart and soul of our countryside", has been allowed to disappear in the past five decades. "Our ancient woodlands are still faced with thoughtless and shortsighted destruction," he says.

David Conder, the council's assistant director, said that the appeal funds would be used to back campaigns for reinforcement of tree preservation orders, legal protection of hedges and traditional orchards, and new grants to encourage tree planting for the benefit of recreation, wildlife and the landscape, rather than for timber production.

Mr Puttnam's successor is to be announced on June 16.

## Genetic patents threaten the search for new medicines

ATTEMPTS by American researchers to patent fragments of human genetic codes could hinder the search for new treatments for disease, the head of the international effort to map the 3,000 million chemical sequences carried on everyone's genes said yesterday.

The moves threatened the free exchange of information between more than 700 genetic scientists around the world, Sir Walter Bodmer, president of the Human Genome Organisation (Hugo) and director-general of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, said.

Sir Walter said that patenting would lead to long and costly legal wrangles over intellectual property rights. He issued the warning as Britain's Medical Research Council, worried that patent approval for American gene sequences might be approved, said yesterday that it would be reluctantly filing similar patents within

two weeks to protect Britain's commercial interests.

Sir Walter said that patenting could undermine Hugo, a programme which, by mapping and then understanding how our genes work, hopes to spawn a new generation of treatments, drugs and possibly cures for inherited diseases.

He said that approval for patenting would be "extremely damaging". Scientists in some countries would simply ignore patent applications filed by American or British researchers "creating, no doubt, a potentially massive problem for the patent lawyers". Others were already refusing to exchange information with scientists in countries where patenting was being discussed.

The American patenting moves could also decrease the rate at which new treatments or drugs emerge as companies abandon efforts, fearing huge royalties

Lawyers and not the sick could benefit most from a move by US researchers. Nick Nuttall reports

will be owed to those who have patented the basic gene sequences.

The American researchers, based at the US National Institutes of Health, filed the first of their patent applications last autumn, apparently with government support, and are expecting an answer in the summer.

A data base run by the council at Northwick Park, designed to carry British, French and Italian gene sequences, has so far been boycotted by continental groups whose governments oppose the patenting of random gene sequences. The council itself has withheld recently

mapped gene sequences from the data base until patents are filed.

Sir Walter, writing in *Science and Public Affairs*, published by the Royal Society and the British Association for the Advancement of Science, said that if the American scientists succeeded it was possible that the whole basis of scientific patenting might need altering.

A use has yet to be identified for the genetic fragments at the centre of the dispute and some critics argue that the applications fail the inventiveness tests. In other words, mankind's genes have not been created by scientists; rather scientists are only discovering their structure.

Sir Walter said that an international agreement was urgently needed to resolve genetic patenting issues. He said it was right that companies spending millions developing new drugs or treatment based on genetic sequences had patent protec-

tion. Likewise, researchers who took a genetic sequence and modified it to produce, say, a new protein, should also be protected.

Sir Walter said he hoped that the US patent office would heed international concern and rule against the applications. The council has indicated that if that happened it would drop its patent applications here.

Dr Sarah Eccles, a senior scientist with the council in London, who specialises in technology transfer and patenting, indicated yesterday that the US office could well rule in the institutes' favour. "At first sight we thought you could not possibly patent these. But when we took advice from patent agents they said there was no outstanding reason why such applications could not get through," she said.

"I think such an approval would be extremely damaging," Sir Walter said.



## Police chiefs look to private sector help

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE officers, whose duties a hundred years ago included inspecting bridges and waking people for work, may have their functions further curtailed.

Although bridge-checking and waking up workers have long ceased to be police tasks, and officers have given up checking sheep-dipping for the agriculture ministry, they still chase stray dogs, and inspect prescription records of chemists' shops and aliens' nationality applications.

The time may, however, be coming when duties will be drawn even tighter. The Adam Smith Institute has published a paper urging the privatisation of some responsibilities, and chief constables gather today for a national conference on that theme. Speakers will include representatives of the institute, of the security industry and of the Policy Studies Institute.

Chief constables and the Police Federation, which represents junior ranks, have expressed concern at the spread of private security companies while acknowledging that the burden placed on police

leaves forces stretched. The increased use of civilian staff, now numbering over 53,000, has freed many officers from administrative work. The next step would be to take away some police duties.

Some changes are already taking place. A project in the Midlands to use private security guards to take prisoners to and from court is expected eventually to be extended throughout the country. Police and councils have been investigating whether the escort of abnormal loads could be passed from traffic police to contractors. The Adam Smith Institute also suggests privatisation of motorway traffic-flow monitoring.

Steps are being taken to switch some traffic wardens from the police to local authority control, and the Home Office has launched a discussion paper on the creation of a firearms control board to take over police responsibilities for the licensing of firearms.

A civilian agency could, according to one senior chief constable, take responsibility for the welfare of prisoners

held in police stations and provide food and medical treatment. Advice on crime prevention crime could be given by civilians, such as retired policemen.

Many chief constables would dearly like to reduce their commitment inside football grounds and see officers replaced by stewards. The snag is that police now have responsibilities for safety throughout the country. The national criminal records system could use more civilians. Some forces provide school crossing patrols; others have passed the job to education authorities.

Although many senior officers desire change, they and local authorities are cautious. There are questions of cost and the quality of the service. If officers are removed from duties that put them in touch with the public, they might lose valuable contacts and public relations opportunities. In the 19th century, one reformer justified the constable's job of waking up workers as a way of showing that policemen were not simply a tool of coercion.



Human touch: Lesley Moore, 27, who today becomes the first policewoman to receive the Royal Humane Society's gold award for her 1989 attempt to revive a fatally injured London building worker who had fallen onto a ledge

## Hospital beat puts crime fight on to the street

Putting officers at the centre of the community they serve can cut the crime rate, Stewart Tandler writes

THE police office at Archway, north London, has no blue light and no cells — and the telephone carries the insignia of the local health authority. Seventy London police officers have been moved from their traditional base in a police station to rented offices in one of London's largest hospitals at the heart of the area they cover.

The experiment in moving the officers into Whittington Hospital began two months ago and the first crime figures, which involve small numbers of crimes, show a drop ranging from 3 per cent to 30 per cent in categories of reported offences both within the hospital and in the surrounding streets.

Tenants on one local estate have already sent letters praising the scheme and if the move proves successful in bringing officers closer to their community other unorthodox sites will follow.

This week, when chief constables meet for a national policing conference, experiments such as the Archway initiative will be high on the agenda as the government presses the police to get closer to their communities. Kenneth Clarke, new home secretary, has already made clear that forces are not moving fast enough, pointing out recently that only a third of them have begun work on greater community policing.

The Archway experiment is exactly what ministers want forces to develop. The north London officers are operating a new system known as sector policing, which involves the scrapping of traditional working methods including shift patterns. It brings police closer to the ground they cover and makes them more responsive to the needs of communities.

Archway's officers were originally based at Holloway police station in the middle of the fourth busiest police division in London. When the division was split into three sectors under the new strategy, officers looked for an alternative site at the centre of the Archway sector.

The Whittington, which has more than 500 patients, 660 out-patients each day and 2,200 staff, was keen to bring in the police as a source

of income and as a supplement to the small team of security staff. In two months the number of reported incidents, mainly vehicle crime, has dropped from 18 over the same period last year to one and staff are reassured by the police presence.

Officers work from a floor within one of the hospital blocks and are geographically and psychologically at the centre of their policing ground. They muster for shifts at the hospital, check their duties in the operations room within their offices and eat with hospital staff. Divided into six teams rather than the three shifts, or "reliefs", which traditionally divide up the 24 hour work rota, the officers patrol a mixed inner city area.

Chief Supt Peter Mathias, head of the division, said: "I was very anxious that we take policing to the customer. I think the important thing is to get officers up into the area we want to police." Big imposing police stations were not always the best way of reaching the public.

Instead of covering the entire division and being sent anywhere within it, officers in the sector only work in Archway. They cannot sign off from their eight hours of work and leave difficulties behind for someone else. The next day they return to the same area and have to solve the problem.

The operations room has two notice boards. One sets out the crime priorities on each beat. The other notes "neighbourhood forum issues" drawn from meetings with residents through the local council's area offices. Issues cover anything from speeding traffic to rowdy children.

Sector policing is aimed at reconciling the two sets of demands. Patrols can be concentrated in areas where there are more offences or the police can turn to lateral thinking.

Faced with a burst of car crime in two streets, the unit leafleted every resident warning of the dangers and calling for better crime prevention. Car crime, the most common criminal activity in London, immediately dropped in the area.

## Denning defeated on school

Lord Denning's dream of making his old school a community centre had a setback in the High Court yesterday. School trustees won a possession order against the former Master of the Rolls, who still lives in his birthplace, Whitchurch, Hampshire, and has fought to save its former school since its closure in 1973.

Lord Denning, 93, said: "I have spent a very considerable sum on repair work, insurance and keeping the old school going."

The order was won by the Rev Michael Grylls and the Rev Martin Coppen, joint vicars of Whitchurch and St Mary Bourne and the school trustees. Later, Niall Brook, their solicitor, said that Lord Denning had claimed to be "a constructive trustee" because he had insured and improved the building. Mr Brook said that, subject to any appeal, the vicars would apply to the Charity Commissioners for a scheme deciding the future of the school, surplus to requirements since provision of new premises.

## Murder charge

Peter Horbury, 55, a graphic designer, was remanded in custody accused of murdering his wife, Caroline, a nurse, at their home at Mamhilad, Gwent. Their son, Daniel, 10, had dialled 999 to report her death.

## Arson trial

Alan Baggs, of Reading, Berkshire, 42, an air freight manager with James Bouriet and Sons, the fine art shipper, yesterday denied starting a fire at its warehouse near Heathrow airport. His trial at Isleworth Crown Court was adjourned for three weeks.

## Dodger sought

Police are seeking a fare dodger who locked himself in the lavatory of a train before threatening a ticket inspector with a knife between Fratton and Harbour stations, Portsmouth.



Grantham: new role as a psychiatrist

## C4 reveals bombing secrets

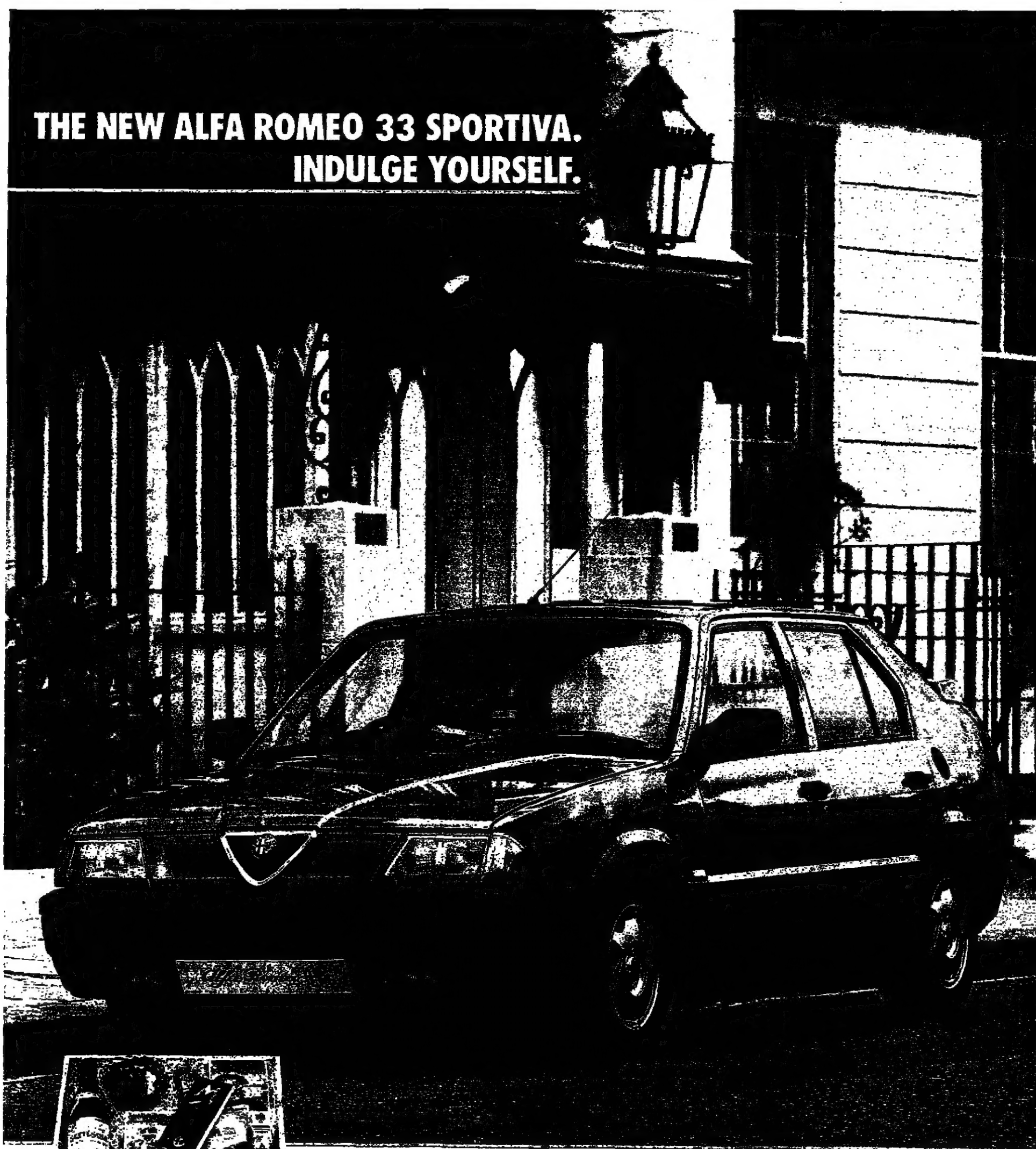
A PROGRAMME revealing a secret peacetime British bombing campaign which flattened villages in Iraq, Sudan, Pakistan and Afghanistan is part of Channel 4's £30 million summer schedules which were unveiled yesterday.

*Birds of Death*, part of a new series of Secret History documentaries, describes how Winston Churchill, then colonial secretary, tackled disturbances in corners of the Empire in 1921.

Arthur "Bomber" Harris, who was later to lead Bomber Command and mastermind the destruction of cities in Germany, was one of the pilots deployed by the RAF to attack villages with huge loss of life.

Other new programmes include a comedy thriller, *Gummed Labels*, which will star the *EastEnders* actor Leslie Grantham as a bespectacled psychiatrist. A spokesman for the show said: "It is quite a change for him because he wants to diversify his style and his image and he wears spectacles in this role."

The comedian Julian Clary is also to star in his first TV situation comedy. He appears as himself in *Terry and Julian* about a homeless television celebrity who turns up on the doorstep of a rough and ready lad after answering a newspaper advertisement for a flatmate



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## Second show folds in struggling West End

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A SECOND show in London's West End is to fold, it was announced yesterday just three days after the sudden closure of *Reflected Glory* starring Albert Finney. *Some Like It Hot* at the Prince Edward Theatre is to end its run in two weeks' time. Both shows were produced by Mark Furness.

Many other West End shows are in danger of closure because of poor ticket sales, and there is little sign of tourism bringing a box office revival. Bill Kenwright, one of the West End's most successful producers, said: "I've never known business so bad. All my houses are down."

Mr Furness closed *Reflected Glory* on Friday at 45 minutes' notice, blaming "universally bad business in the West End". Mr Finney, the star of the production at the Vaudeville Theatre, had refused to go on because he had not been paid. Another of Mr Furness's shows, *The Blue Angel*, is believed to be doing badly.

Few theatres are dark, but many shows are playing to such poor houses — only 20 per cent in some cases — that they cannot survive much longer. Roger Filer of Stoll Moss Theatres said that pro-

ducers had been holding on through the traditionally bad month of May in the hope of audiences improving. "We are surprised at the level to which business has dropped," he said. "We are well cushioned with three successful shows at our theatres — *Miss Saigon*, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* — but shows which in other times would be making money are not."

A number of factors have led to audiences staying away from the West End: a general election, a late Easter followed closely by two more bank holidays and a very hot May. Theatres were banking on the arrival of overseas visitors, who normally account for 32 per cent of audiences, but they are staying away. Americans have been put off by the poor exchange rate and are contributing instead to a boom on Broadway.

Nick Blackburn, sales director of Ticketmaster, a ticket agency, said: "We thought that after the election and as interest rates started improving people would be coming back, but it just hasn't happened and theatres are having a very, very tough time."

Few plays, he said, were doing well. He blamed both the absence of tourists and the variable quality of the productions. "For a straight play to succeed now reviews really have to tell people to go, not just that they might like it," Mr Blackburn said.

Tickets offered at discounted prices are keeping many shows afloat. Visitors to wine bars and restaurants in central London can find "Show-pairs" vouchers on their tables or by the bar, entitling them to two tickets for the price of one for some leading shows. The promotion is very low key as producers are reluctant to admit that they need to resort to such means to fill seats.

Mr Kenwright has used Show-pairs for the award-winning *Dancing at Lughnasa* and even his new show, John Osborne's *Delavau* which opens tomorrow has been offered at half-price for previews.

A survey by the Society of West End Theatre a year ago showed that 22 per cent of tickets bought for West End shows were sold at a discount. The figure now is likely to be nearer 50 per cent. The society operates the half-price ticket booth in Leicester Square. On Saturday, only tickets for the most successful Lloyd Webber and Mackintosh shows were not on offer.

Regional touring is becoming better business for plays than a West End run. Today, Howard Panter, one of the founders of Turnstyle Productions which has *A Slip of the Tongue* running in the West End, opens the New Victoria Theatre at Woking shopping centre which his company will run. Robert Cogo-Fawcett, the Woking theatre's artistic director, said: "Producers may offer the West End as the end of a tour, but they can't always deliver. We don't think it needs to be in the programme, and the West End is not attractive at the moment anyway."



From pleasure garden to pleasure dome: Leicester Square in 1874 and, below, the modern square hemmed in on all sides

## London's heart is restored to square one

The official reopening by the Queen of a newly refurbished Leicester Square has rekindled pride, reports John Young

THE view from Leicester Square along Coventry Street and into Piccadilly, spoilt only by the absurd Swiss Centre, is still one of the grandest in the capital; grand not because it contains any buildings of outstanding merit, but because it encapsulates a style and scale that are essentially London. Yet on several occasions this century it has been endangered by neglect or by ill-conceived redevelopment schemes that would have destroyed it for ever.

On April 4, 1928, *The Times* carried a long article by its architectural correspondent discussing the merits of a comprehensive scheme by Sir Reginald Blomfield for the redevelopment of Piccadilly Circus.

The *Times* favoured change. It was time, it said, to shed the "Nash complex", and useless to sigh over departed glories. Already Eros had been temporarily displaced to make way for a new Underground station; an experimental one-way traffic system had been pronounced a success, and a new age beckoned.

But the new age proved less easy to accommodate than expected. Within months there were calls for bypasses along Curzon Street and through Green Park to relieve the accumulating congestion in Piccadilly.

The debate on the re-planning of the circus was interrupted by war, but resumed again in 1958 with an enquiry into London County Council's proposals for large scale redevelopment. They included new roads, the demolition of the London Pavilion and the Criterion, and the construction of several high rise buildings and underground car parks.

In March 1959, the coun-

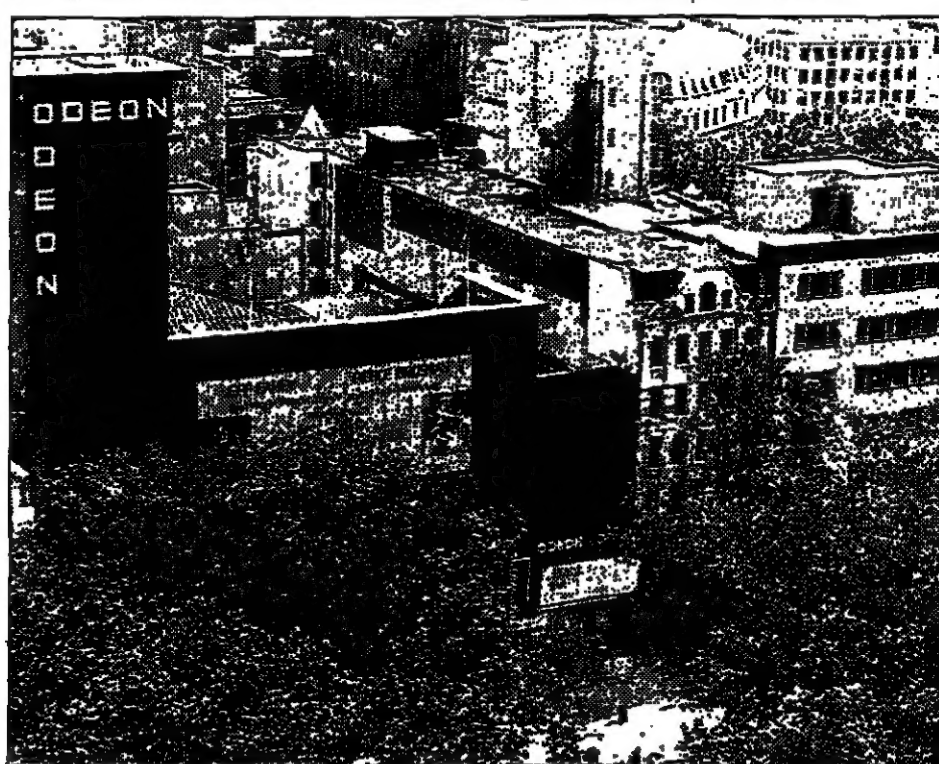
cil's planning committee approved a proposal by Jack Cotton's City Centre Properties for a 172m tower on the so-called Monica site adjoining Shaftesbury Avenue. The Royal Fine Art Commission made strenuous objections, the House of Commons was told of "widespread dismay" at this vulgar and unimaginative proposal, and the Lords were asked what London had done to deserve such an "unspeakable" building.

Henry Brooke, minister for housing and local government, called a public enquiry at which the proposed building was famously described by the then Mr Elwyn Jones as "the biggest aspidochelone in the world". The plans were rejected, and Sir William Holford was appointed to produce a new scheme.

His proposal bore a strong resemblance to his master plan for the precinct of St Paul's Cathedral, with a raised pedestrian piazza surrounded by several slab-like buildings. It was rejected, ironically, because in the government's view "it did not make enough provision for the expected increase in road traffic". *The Times* described the whole business as "the most badly bungled affair in the history of post-war urban planning".

A futuristic scheme, masterminded by Dennis Lennon, was put on display in 1966: its most striking feature was a 435ft tower on the Criterion site on the south side of the circus. Desmond Plummer, the GLC leader, described it as "an opportunity that may not recur before the end of the century".

The opportunity was scorned. The GLC gave up and handed responsibility to Westminster council, which, in May 1972, produced yet



another plan, the seventh all told, to transform what it described as "a down at heel, neon-lit shum". Simon Jenkins, the present editor of *The Times*, castigated the scheme in the *Evening Standard* as a "terrible mistake. God forbid that such devastation of the West End should ever take place," he wrote.

Nor did it. The scheme was abandoned. Eros was given a wash and brush up, the London Pavilion restored, the Underground station modernised, and the Monica and Trocadero sites rebuilt on a modest and unobtrusive scale.

During the same period, Leicester Square has been threatened not so much by development as by degeneration. In the past three years Westminster City Council has spent £4 million on what it describes as a landmark in its drive to restore civic pride.

The square, enclosed by elegant town houses, was laid out in the late 17th century in the grounds of Leicester House, the London home of the Earls of Leicester. Leicester House was demolished in 1792, and the square's prestige declined, but in 1843 it was opened to traffic and enjoyed a renaissance as a centre of entertainment, including hotels, shops, exhibitions, Turkish baths and oyster shops. A

generation later, it was back in the doldrums: a statue of George I mounted on a horse was destroyed by vandals and the square was boarded off.

In 1874 it was reopened, with new public gardens surrounding a Shakespeare memorial. It became the capital of "theatreland", dominated by great music halls such as the Empire and the Alhambra, converted in the 1930s to play host to the new cinema age.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the square became increasingly shabby and disreputable: an eyesore which sensitive Londoners tended to avoid and a haunt of drug addicts, drunks, prostitutes and vagrants.

The latest improvements include better access to the gardens, ornamental landscaping, new high-quality paving and better lighting. The Shakespeare fountain and other sculptures have been restored, and the North Terrace and Swiss Court repaved to provide space for open air cafes.

David Weeks, leader of Westminster council, said: "Leicester Square has shrugged off its poor image. The past malaise that afflicted the area is just a memory." They probably said the same thing in 1843 and 1874. We can only wait and see.

## Sailors held after jumping from ship

Two Royal Navy sailors prompted a large-scale search yesterday by jumping ship off the Isle of Man and swimming a mile to shore.

The search was called off after their uniforms and life jackets were found on a cliff top at Laxey, David Coleman, 19, and Steven Bumbury, 18, both able seamen, were later stopped after leaving the ferry at Heysham, Lancashire. Military police were interviewing them last night.

Naval officers feared that the men had fallen overboard in the night when they were reported missing after a barn roll call on the destroyer HMS Gloucester. A rescue vessel and three helicopters searched the Manx coastline and the sea around the ship. Lancashire police said that the men's reason for jumping ship was not yet known.

## Boy's award

Lewis Cooper, 5, of Stevenage, Hertfordshire, who was paralysed by oxygen starvation at birth, is to receive at least £740,000 compensation from North Hertfordshire health authority in an agreed High Court settlement.

## Murder charge

Malcolm Smith, 40, was remanded in custody by Bournemouth magistrates yesterday charged with the murder of Jayne Harvell, 26, a barmaid from Dorset, and escaping from custody.

## Poetry gift

British Gas gave the Wordsworth Trust sponsorship worth £70,500 for a children's education scheme at Dove Cottage, Grasmere, the poet's Lake District home.

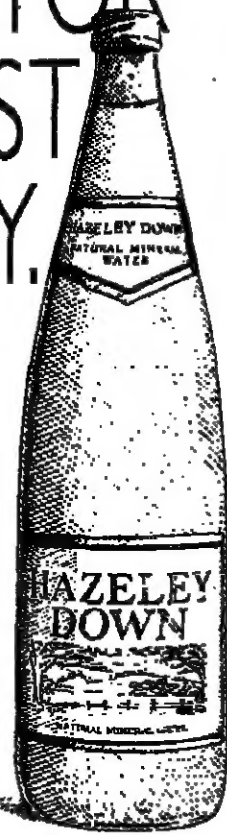
## Shotgun victim

The remains of a man in his thirties thought to have been blasted with a shotgun were found by a walker in a park at Reigate, Surrey.

## Thirsty Britain

Britons drank tea at the rate of 175 million cups a day last year, the Tea Council said.

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## Settlers' garden yields Viking relics

A FAMILY of English settlers on the Shetland island of Fetlar have unearthed from their garden a hoard of artifacts left by the Viking settlers who arrived 1,000 years before them.

Nic Boxall had been in his new home for only a few weeks when he decided to dig a carrot bed. He quickly found some stone fishing weights, bone combs and the fragments of what was later identified as Viking kitchenware. Investigations have shown that the items could lead to the discovery of only the second Viking high longhouse found on Shetland.

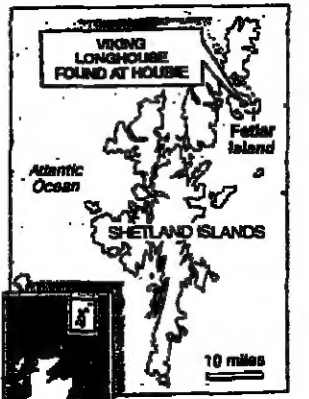
Mr Boxall, an insurance man from Cheshire, and his wife Lyn were among a small number of people who answered a call for settlers from the tiny community. It was feared that Fetlar, an island on the northeast corner of the archipelago with about 100 inhabitants, was about to become a victim of depopulation. The Boxalls decided to make a new life there. Mr Boxall discovered

Kerry Gill on how a Shetland islander's carrot patch provided an historic crop

that the soil around his home, at Houbie, was suitable for growing vegetables, in spite of lying closer to the Arctic Circle than to London. Unknown to him or anyone else at the time, it appears that what lay there could be one of the most important archaeological sites found on Shetland.

As the soil seemed easy to work Mr Boxall decided to double-dig his patch, so that he would eventually be able to plant seedlings and root vegetables. About two feet below the surface he came across the stone fishing weights.

He continued to dig, finding more artifacts including the pieces of necklaces, bone combs and the fragments of kitchenware. There was a lot of stone which, he thought, was merely the foundations of an old byre that he had



been told once existed on the land.

Having come across so much material, he became alarmed, thinking that he had stumbled across something of importance. After consulting staff at the local historical centre, who called in archaeologists, Mr Boxall was asked to forget about his carrot bed so that experts could be summoned from Edinburgh.

Mr Boxall said yesterday: "When I came to one of the last lines I was digging, the stone seemed to be in very tight. I started using a pickaxe, never thinking it might

be a wall but then I remembered that there had been a byre on the site." That could well be part of the longhouse which, archaeologists say, could reveal all manner of other finds.

Val Turner, a Shetland archaeologist, said that the discoveries were very important and it was hoped that enough money could be raised to conduct a full excavation. If the site is that of a high longhouse, it would be the home of wealthy Vikings.

Recently on Sanday, Orkney, the remains of a Viking burial boat belonging to a wealthy merchant and his family were discovered. What archaeologists described as invaluable artifacts had been thought by the person who found them to be pieces of an old car battery.

Norsemen settled in the Shetland Islands in the 8th century. The islands became Scottish only in the 15th century. Fetlar means "fat land" in Norn, the ancient language of Shetland, from which Norwegian was derived.

## Bishop campaigns to boost capital

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A PLAN to revitalise the heart and life of the Church of England in London was launched last night by the Bishop of London, Dr David Hope.

Dr Hope's *Agenda for Action*, published as a "green paper" at the London diocesan synod, outlines a plan to make the diocese financially independent with regard to clergy pay within ten years. Some parishes unable to pay their way could be merged to form larger units. Others could be designated mission areas, with extra staff or money to promote them.

The London diocese, founded in AD 314, includes the City, most of greater London north of the Thames and part of Hertfordshire. It has 494 churches, 554 subsidiary male clergy and 44 subsidiary women deacons.

Worship, prayer and preaching the gospel are at the heart of Dr Hope's plan for spiritual renewal, which

he describes as "urgently needed". His plan reinforces the idea that the church is for everyone, not just regular churchgoers.

Dr Hope, who succeeded Graham Leonard as Bishop of London last autumn, told the synod, meeting at Church House, Westminster: "No longer can we assume that people have a rudimentary and basic knowledge of the Christian faith. They do not. So there is a real urgency about teaching the basics, encouraging those who enquire and those who long and desire to know more."

London undoubtedly had too many church buildings for its present and future needs, he said. Some churches were in the wrong place, while other areas did not have enough. "On one deanery visit I was shown seven huge churches in the space of one square mile," he said. The city of London has 37 churches and two chapels in a square mile.





Leigh: met with a group of fellow ministers to plot tactics on the Maastricht treaty

## Ministers take the rebel side in party split over treaty

To the relief of some junior Tory MPs, senior colleagues have at last shown their Maastricht colours, Nicholas Wood writes

TWO cabinet ministers were among a group of about a dozen Euro-sceptic ministers who attended a private meeting at Westminster last week to plot tactics in the light of Denmark's rejection of the Maastricht treaty, it emerged yesterday.

In a move highlighting the depth of Conservative party divisions over Europe, Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, and Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary, joined junior and middle-ranking ministers opposed to pressing ahead with the bill ratifying the agreement reached before Christmas.

Neil Hamilton and Edward Leigh, junior trade ministers, Eric Forth, a junior education minister, Michael Forsyth, a middle-ranking employment minister, John

Redwood, the local government minister, and Steve Norris, a junior transport minister, were among those present on Wednesday evening.

David Davis, the Foreign Office whip, also attended the meeting, held just hours after the government performed a U-turn in the face of mounting Tory and Labour opposition and postponed plans to go ahead with the committee stages of the Maastricht bill.

His task was to relay to the prime minister and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, the mood of the meeting. It is understood he told them that

the group believed that the Danish referendum had killed off the treaty and that the government should abandon it.

The stance taken by the meeting of ministers was in direct contradiction to that taken publicly by the prime minister in the Commons on Wednesday afternoon when he said that ratification and implementation of the treaty were in Britain's "national interest".

It is believed that Mr Lilley and Mr Portillo voiced their objections during the cabinet's 30-minute debate on the Danish vote on Thursday.

Although the cabinet endorsed the line taken by Mr Major, Downing Street sources said there had been a "very interesting discussion". Whitehall code for less than full agreement.

As news of the meeting filtered out at Westminster yesterday, there was relief among the 80 Tory Euro-rebels who had signed last week's Commons motion calling for a "fresh start" over Europe. Backbenchers who had risked the wrath of the whips to signal their hostility towards integration were pleased to discover that their doubts were shared at the highest level.

However, not all the Euro-rebels were satisfied that ministers were pulling their weight in the internal party battle over Maastricht. One

backbench veteran of the fray said that they had been pressing ministers of like mind to "show their true colours", warning them that a small core of dissident MPs could not be expected to halt the government machine. He was not convinced that one discreet gathering of ministerial critics would make much difference.

News of the meeting sparked speculation about possible resignations if the government decides to plough on with the existing bill. Two or three of the junior ministers are said to be passionately opposed to Maastricht and candidates for a walk-out if the government pays no heed to their views. But, as their backbench friends are telling them, Mr Major could survive comfortably a limited challenge to his authority.

Mr Portillo, at 39 the youngest member of the cabinet, is already the right's best hope of one day reclaiming the leadership of the Conservative party. He is thought to be playing a long game and is likely to argue that the Euro-sceptic case can be best defended by having people like him inside the cabinet. Mr Lilley's position is less secure and he knows that if he were to quit now he could be in the wilderness for a long time. In any case, ministerial resignations are out of fashion. Assuming the government throws them a few bones over Maastricht and they are not planning to quit anyway in a year's time, it is hard to see how Europe might push them over the edge.

## Hurd opposes new negotiation on Maastricht

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

BRITAIN must not renegotiate over Maastricht and be dragged back into the "maelstrom" which preceded last December's signing of the treaty, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, told MPs yesterday.

Mr Hurd insisted that the British objective remained to establish a single market and enlarge the EC, but admitted that last week's Danish referendum might hinder progress. He made it clear that he and the prime minister were opposed to any "unbundling" of the treaty, on which reaching a new unanimous agreement would be difficult.

Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, said that Labour may oppose the bill ratifying the treaty, and Mr Hurd faced pressure from backbench Tories, most notably Kenneth Baker, the former home secretary.

Mr Kaufman said that Labour regarded it as improper for the Commons to debate and approve legislation enacted in UK law "a treaty which is inherently faulty as a result of the Danish referendum".

It was all very well for EC foreign ministers to say they wished to proceed with ratification of the treaty, but he challenged Mr Hurd: "Will you explain the point of this when the treaty cannot be operative unless all of the 12 ratify it? If the government is not able to offer that clear way ahead, the Labour party will oppose any further consideration of the bill in this house and will vote accordingly."

Last month Labour abstained from a vote on the second reading of the ratification bill, in which the government achieved a 244 majority. Some Labour members defied the party line.

Mr Baker was the most prominent backbench MP to put pressure on the government to modify the treaty and slow down the pace of ratification. He said that the best parts of the treaty were those that required no modification, such as foreign and social matters. He added, however, that the treaty was agreed by a "community of 12, not 11 plus one". He said there would have to be "substantial changes and modifications" before this House could approve it.

Mr Hurd insisted that there must be unanimous agreement over the treaty, even if it meant being delayed. There would be no pressure to coerce the Danes into agreement. Achieving unanimous agreement did mean that changes might not take place smoothly but it was a community of democracies which had to be given respect. He promised a debate on the Danish decision before the bill ratifying the treaty, which was shelved last week, returned to the House.

John Biffen, a Conservative Euro-sceptic, asked for Mr Hurd's assessment of the statement by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, that

the Danish vote would speed up European integration.

Mr Hurd said that the bill on ratification did not deal only with the issue of decentralisation. Peter Shore, the Labour anti-market leader and former cabinet minister, said that the Danish vote meant the part of the treaty which required unanimous agreement was dead and Britain should go ahead with those parts which did not require unanimity.

David Howell, chairman of the foreign affairs select committee in the last parliament, said it was vitally important to reinterpret the treaty to reflect the "excellent" work done by John Major in Maastricht and more effort should be made to move away from centralisation. Mr Hurd said Britain would press for a wider Europe and more decentralisation.

Ivan Lawrence (Burton, C) suggested the treaty was "lifeless and dead" and demanded: "What on earth is the point of going through the ratification process by the other 11 member states, if it's only to pretend that it has life? There is a better case for renegotiating the treaty to lose the federalism and centralising elements."

Mr Hurd said that would not happen. "All the centralising proposals which we have put forward, which we got rid of with great difficulty, would return."

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Gardener's question time: Eric Forth, the schools minister, rests in the shade with Claire Hobbs, 8, after planting a tree at Paddington Green primary school, west London, at the start of national governors week yesterday. Mr Forth was publicising a drive to recruit up to 75,000 new school governors

## Dublin fights for yes vote

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish government, aware that hopes of rescuing the Maastricht process depend to a large extent on securing a yes vote in the republic's referendum next week, said yesterday that rejecting the treaty would amount to "economic suicide".

Bertie Ahern, the minister for finance, told a meeting of Dublin businessmen that a no vote would be the signal for a big outflow of funds from Ireland and would cause financial difficulties. He said Ireland's ability to secure vital structural funding from the community would be harmed, while all the efforts to stabilise the economy within the European monetary system would be wasted.

Mr Ahern's tone reflects fears that the yes vote could be dangerously reduced in the run-up to the June 18 poll.



Reynolds: seeking a united front on treaty

There is concern that the rejection of the treaty in Denmark could give the pro-life lobby renewed impetus.

Albert Reynolds, the prime minister, is today expected to join a united front with leaders of the Progressive Democrats, Fine Gael and the Labour party, to try to ensure

that no further ground is lost. The last opinion poll on Maastricht, published in the *Irish Times* on May 11, found 57 per cent in favour with 11 per cent against and 32 per cent undecided. Most observers in Dublin do not believe Mr Reynolds is in danger of losing the vote and predict it will be carried, though by a reduced margin.

The government is facing a multiplicity of groups opposed to the treaty, but for quite different reasons, ranging from the pro-life lobby to women's groups, anti-federalists, those concerned about preserving Ireland's neutrality and the possibility of conscription into a European army, student groups and organisations representing the unemployed. The biggest threat is the pro-life lobby. Yesterday its leaders said they had "a realistic chance" of defeating the treaty and accused the government of using bully boy tactics.

Des Hanafin, 61, a Fianna Fail senator from Tipperary, who was effectively thrown out of the parliamentary party last month for refusing to support the referendum bill, said the government was misrepresenting the case. Ireland would not jeopardise its position in the EC if it voted no, nor would its chances of securing structural or other funding be harmed.

An attempt to prevent the government financing the yes campaign with public money failed at the High Court. Patricia McKenna, a member of the Green party, which opposes the treaty, claimed that the £540,000 spent by the government on advertising, was unconstitutional unless matched by funds for the no vote.

In a second legal action, an application by the Christian Centrist party for an injunction halting the referendum until after a vote on the abortion issue, also failed.

## Pensioners to get Christmas bonus

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

PENSIONERS will again receive a Christmas bonus this year, although there will be no increase on last year's £10 payment. Ann Widdecombe, social security junior minister, said that, as payments were a statutory provision, there would be no repetition of the cancellation of payments as happened under the last Labour government.

Miss Widdecombe accepted that the value of the bonus had declined but said it would cost £720 million to restore the amount to previous levels. An extra £700 million had been paid to poorer pensioners, and the government considered this an improvement on universal increases. During social security

questions, Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, said that he was still keeping an open mind over the issue of bringing men's and women's pensionable ages into line but confirmed that there would be no changes within the coming year. He said that a number of options, including making the standard retirement age 60, 63 or 65, were being considered but it would be "foolish" to pre-empt the consultation process.

The government was also challenged over the value of continuing the 25p weekly increase for pensioners aged 80 and over. Barry Field (Isle of Wight, C) said that the cost of the extra payment was £26 million a year. Mr Lilley said the payment would continue.

## Government to lift sheep scab laws

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

COMPULSORY dipping of sheep, required as a precaution against sheep scab since 1976, is to end, the government said yesterday. Scab, caused by parasitic mites that live on the skin surface of sheep, will no longer be a notifiable disease. The move brings Britain into line with other EC countries.

Nicholas Soames, a junior agriculture minister, told the Commons in a written reply that responsibility for controlling scab would now rest with sheep farmers, who were well aware of the measures needed to deal with the disease. The government would not hesitate to prosecute farmers who failed to act promptly against outbreaks.

"The dipping of sheep will no longer be compulsory and shortly legislation will be put before Parliament proposing that the disease will cease to be notifiable or subject to statutory control measures when it is discovered," he said. Ministry sources added later that compulsory dipping had failed to eradicate scab and had been costing the government £200,000 a year to administer.

The National Farmers' Union and the National Sheep Association criticised the decision. "We think compulsory dipping is in the interests of animal welfare and we will be urging all our flock owners to continue dipping their sheep," Trevor Hayes, the union's chief press officer, said.

## Church justice

Thefts from churches are particularly repugnant, and the answer might be a couple of well-aimed thunderbolts. Tony Banks, the Labour MP for Newham North West, said at question time. Michael Allison, who answers for the Church Commissioners, replied that the irony was that the best way to keep burglars out of church might be to get them into church.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Employment; prime minister. Debates on Opposition motions on ethnic minorities and on Maxwell pensioners. Lords (2.30): Armed Forces (Liability for Injury) bill, second reading. Debate on the Christmas Island atom bomb test victims.

## Minister urges council tenants to run estates

BY DOUGLAS BROOM  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

COUNCIL tenants will be encouraged to set up companies to bid for the right to manage their own estates, under plans announced by the government yesterday.

Sir George Young, the housing minister, told a conference in London that councils would be required to put the work of their housing departments out to private tender within five years. Housing associations and private firms are expected to bid for contracts to run individual council estates, but Sir George said he wanted to see tenants taking the chance to run their own estates.

Tenants already have the right to

take over whole estates or tower blocks by setting up a housing association that acquires the freehold. Several councils have also allowed tenants' groups to administer estates.

The plan announced yesterday offers a half-way house between outright transfer and council control in which the council retains ownership while the tenants take over day-to-day management.

Sir George said: "I have nothing but admiration for the tenants who have decided to get involved with the time-consuming and often difficult process of managing their homes and for what they have achieved."

"As part of our proposals for introducing competition we shall turn the privilege which tenants now enjoy at

councils' discretion into a statutory right. I have no doubt that they will turn in excellent management performances."

In cases where groups of tenants already administer estates, the management contract would have to be put out to private tender but the tenants would be able to bid for the contract.

Sir George said that competitive tendering would reduce costs and release funds to improve council houses. "It is about making much better use of the resources available," he said.

Councils would remain responsible for setting rents and deciding the policy for allocating council homes. Tenants would have a right to sit on

the council committees that awarded the management contracts.

There was, however, one area in which the rights of tenants would have to be reduced. Sir George said that officials had discovered that existing legislation appeared to give tenants the right to veto the tendering process, and that right would have to be withdrawn.

Tenants, councils and other interested groups now have three months to comment on the proposals and legislation to introduce the scheme is expected in the autumn.

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## MPs raise legal questions

MPs had their first chance yesterday to put questions directly to the Lord Chancellor's department when John Taylor appeared at the dispatch box in his newly created post of parliamentary secretary to the department.

Questions ranged from waiting time for cases to come to trial to the closure of magistrates' courts in Calder Valley, north Yorkshire.

Mr Taylor made it clear that the government is concerned about the rising cost of legal aid. Last year it cost the taxpayer £1.15 billion, up a third on the previous year and more than double the gross expenditure four years ago.

## Minister gets rail advice

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, has appointed Sir Christopher Foster as his special adviser on the privatisation of British Rail. Sir Christopher, a senior partner at Coopers & Lybrand, will advise Mr MacGregor in a personal capacity and on a part-time basis.

## Free lunches

Free school meals were provided for 562,993 children in nursery and primary schools last year, and for a further 235,107 children in secondary schools. Figures for the previous year were 519,228 and 222,929 respectively, Eric Forth, a junior education minister, said in a written reply.



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## Judge hints at appeal release for Demjanjuk

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

AN ISRAELI supreme court judge yesterday raised for the first time the possibility that John Demjanjuk may win his appeal against his death sentence and go free because of evidence indicating he is not "Ivan the Terrible", the notorious gas-chamber operator at the Treblinka death camp.

In a stormy court exchange on the eve of the final day of appeal hearings at the Israeli supreme court, Justice Aharon Barak told Michael Shaked, the prosecuting attorney, that his three-day testimony had failed to link Demjanjuk conclusively to the extermination camp in Poland, where eyewitnesses at the original trial testified he had murdered 850,000 Jews. The original conviction has been cast into doubt over the past year by the discovery of 70 documents from the former Soviet Union which suggest that another Ukrainian, who has been identified as Ivan Marchenko, was the real mass murderer. The new evidence suggested that Demjanjuk was a *Wachman* (guard) at the Sobibor death camp in Poland and later at the concentration camp at Flossenbürg, Germany. The whereabouts of Marchenko are unknown.

During his deliberations, Mr Shaked first admitted that there could have been two "Ivans" at Treblinka and then proceeded yesterday to argue that all Ukrainian guards serving in the SS in Poland during the Holocaust were guilty of war crimes. "Sobibor, Belzec, Treblinka were the same camp," said Mr Shaked. "The methods used for extermination were the same. Only geography separated them."

The prosecutor said that as long as the victim in both cases had been the Jewish people, the crime was genocide. "The guard is the direct servant of Satan. All he does is kill Jews throughout the time he is there," Mr Shaked said. He urged the court to give the greatest weight to the testimony at the trial of the Treblinka survivors, declaring that that was the "safest bet". An estimated 870,000 Jews were gassed at Treblinka.

However, the prosecutor's

argument appeared to backfire before the bench and elicited an angry response from Justice Barak, who said that Demjanjuk had been extradited from his home in America in 1987 for specific crimes of genocide at Treblinka, expressly for being "Ivan the Terrible".

"Being a *Wachman* is not an offence," he said. "Genocide is the offence." He went on to tell the stunned court, including several Holocaust survivors, that the prosecution could not charge a man with guilt by association. "If you have no proof beyond reasonable doubt that he [Demjanjuk] was at Treblinka, then there is no point in proceeding. I would have to release him if he was only a *Wachman*."

In spite of a spirited defence by Mr Shaked, the outburst seemed to damage further the already shaky case put forward by the prosecution as the trial comes to a close. The appeal hearing is due to end today when Yoram Shefiel, the defence lawyer, makes his final arguments and the justices will then retire to make their decision, probably by the middle to the end of the summer. The five-judge panel, if it decides to reverse the conviction, could also rule on whether Demjanjuk could be tried on other charges or released.

Their decision, however, could be further complicated by the decision on Friday by a United States federal court in Cincinnati, Ohio, to reopen the extradition case against Demjanjuk because of concerns raised by Chief Justice Gilbert Merritt that the retired Ford car worker may have been wrongly accused.

The court in Ohio has ordered both sides in the proceedings to submit fresh evidence to the court by July 25, make their positions known by August 1, and appear at a preliminary hearing in Cincinnati on August 11, where Demjanjuk's extradition could be overturned. Reacting to the news from his home state, Demjanjuk's son John said: "I think this particular ruling is without a doubt the most significant ruling in this case in the past 16 years. The judicial order is the first step to bringing him back to the United States."

Mr Shefiel said that the decision by the American court to reopen Demjanjuk's extradition case showed that it had doubts about Israel's prosecution. "In my opinion, it is a clear expression of dissatisfaction of the American courts with the way the Demjanjuk case is being handled in Israel," he said.

The accused was born Ivan Demjanjuk in Ukraine 72 years ago. After being extradited from the United States, a lower court sentenced him to hang in 1988 for being "Ivan the Terrible".



Demjanjuk extradited from America in 1987

## Bonn denies cash deal for hostages

BY RICHARD BEESTON

THE two German hostages held by a Palestinian faction in Lebanon are expected to be freed amid reports that Bonn has paid several million dollars to the kidnappers and guaranteed the freedom of the imprisoned Hamadi brothers.

The respected Hebrew daily *Haaretz* said that contacts were under way through Amnon Zichroni, an Israeli lawyer, in which a ransom would be paid to the kidnappers and guaranteed the freedom of the release of the Hamadis.

A German foreign ministry spokesman said that he knew of the report but denied its veracity. "The German government's position in hostages is well-known," he said. "Our position is that we do not make deals."

Last Thursday, a government spokesman said he believed there was a good chance that Heinrich Bruhag, 51, and Thomas Kempfner, 51, could be released soon.

Yesterday, Fares Bweiz, the Lebanese foreign minister, renewed speculation when he said: "I think a very quick solution to this problem will be found in the next days... there are just some technical points to be solved."

allah movement headed by the organisation's security chief, Abdel Hadi Hamadi. He has insisted that the men will not be freed until his brothers, jailed in Germany, are also released. Muhammad Hamadi is serving a life sentence for the 1985 hijacking of a TWA airliner to Beirut and the murder of an American passenger. Abbas Hamadi was jailed in 1988 for 13 years for seizing two German businessmen.

In spite of efforts by the United Nations and the European Community, which has withheld aid until the matter is resolved, the issue appeared to have reached a stalemate after Bonn's insistence that it would not make any deals. However, hopes of a release were raised last week during a visit to Lebanon by Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, and a report in the pro-government *Tehran Times* predicting that the Germans would soon be free.



Baring arms one Israeli holidaymaker forgoes beach games to flaunt an assault rifle as a deterrent against terrorists as he builds up his tan at Zifrim

## PLO blames Mossad for security chief's killing

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE motive behind the assassination of a Palestine Liberation Organisation official in Paris was still unclear last night as French police opened a formal murder enquiry.

Atif Bseiso was shot early yesterday by two unidentified men carrying silenced pistols outside the Mervin hotel in Montparnasse: the killers had apparently been lying in wait for him as he returned from dinner and are believed to have escaped on foot.

According to Palestinian sources, Mr Bseiso, in his early forties, was responsible for security measures at the PLO headquarters in Tunis and had only recently arrived in Paris to prepare for talks with the French authorities about improving the protection for prominent members of the organisation living here. "We are not ruling out the possibility that the assassination may have been undertaken by the Israelis," a PLO source in Paris told the Agence France-Presse news agency.

In Jerusalem, Israeli officials last night denied that Mossad was behind Mr

Bseiso's killing. Mr Bseiso had worked closely with Abu Iyad, head of PLO security, until his murder in Tunis in January last year. The PLO at first blamed Mossad, the Israeli secret service, for Iyad's death until it emerged that he was killed by the enemy within — a bodyguard turned assassin acting for the radical Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal.

Iyad, who was gunned down on the eve of the Gulf war, had spoken out against President Saddam Hussein, who had provided Abu Nidal with a safe haven in Baghdad after Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, threw him out.

It is understood that Mr Bseiso was seen in the company of two other men shortly before the shooting in front of the hotel, where he had been staying under an assumed name. This was the sixth assassination of a PLO official in France in the past 20 years, all but one of which occurred in Paris. The lethal sequence began in 1982 with the death of Mahmoud Hamchari, chief representative of the PLO, in an explosion set off

by remote control when he answered his telephone. The most recent victim was Fadi Dani, deputy director of the Paris operation, killed in a car bomb a decade ago.

Although the Israeli security services are suspected of involvement in some of those killings, sources close to the PLO in Paris do not rule out the possibility that Mr Bseiso was shot down by members of the Abu Nidal organisation.

Mr Bseiso's killing comes after a warning last week from Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, to all his senior officers and missions worldwide that Mossad would target the organisation's leaders in advance of Israel's general elections later this month, PLO officials said in Tunis.

One PLO diplomat said that Mossad probably suspected Mr Bseiso of involvement in the September 1972 massacre of 11 kidnapped Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics because he had worked since 1969 with Iyad, accused by Israel of plotting the operation. Israel has settled scores with most of the suspected perpetrators of the Munich massacres.

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# Tale of two cities bewilders Prussia's nostalgic children

KALININGRAD, the corner of territory on the western edge of the former Soviet Union, is the one place in all Russia where they may be telling the truth when they say there are no vacant hotel rooms. Every week Kaliningrad experiences an influx of several thousand Germans, described patiently by the new city fathers as "nostalgic tourists", visiting or revisiting the city they or their parents knew as Königsberg, east Prussia.

A region closed to foreigners until a year ago and still one of the most militarised in Europe, Kaliningrad has only 1,200 hotel rooms deemed suitable for foreigners, and no money to build more. The "nostalgic tourists", they say, do not spend enough marks.

Kaliningrad is distinguish-

German visitors to the imposing city that they know as Königsberg find a decaying Russian cantonment called Kaliningrad, Mary Dejevsky writes

they cannot know, nor even imagine, is that the decay and poverty only mount the further east you go.

The Königsberg that the Germans dimly remember took its place in Europe as an equal with other proud cities of the Baltic. It had shops and banks and offices, city streets and bustle. It had a skyline with a forest of church spires.

The city they see is an inelegant conglomeration of old and new, much of it disintegrating. The skyline is gone. The ruin of the city's cathedral (a victim of allied

bombing and left, so it seemed, as a lesson to the Russian settlers) is marooned on a grassy islet. It is overlooked by a more recent ruin: the uncompleted Communist party headquarters, a grey concrete folly built on the site of the prince's palace, which was razed by the Russians in the 1960s.

Outside the immediate centre, however, old German residential suburbs remain intact. Leafy streets are lined with solid, steep-eaved detached houses, many now divided into flats and all highly sought-after in the

first flush of privatisation. A few churches are being restored, but fewer than elsewhere because there are no congregations to receive them back. The Germans evicted after 1945 were Roman Catholics and Lutherans. The settlers were Russian and predominantly communist.

The military have a whole section of the outer city to themselves. Crumbling high-rise flats with blue panels are ranged in rows around yards where the khaki military hardware can just be glimpsed between irregular concrete slabs. The gate-houses to great barracks blocks are guarded by young lads, engaged in horseplay that would be innocent were they not armed. Almost everyone on the streets is in uniform, with the character-



istic Soviet accessories — a half-full string bag, a boxed cake, a bunch of flowers. The countryside must be much as it was, perhaps scruffier. Bay horses and Friesian cows graze in the fields. Tumbledown wooden houses are sheltered by stands of trees, old trees, recognisably European trees. But the place names have been changed. Names of far-flung Russian towns

and regions reappear here in a rural version. The German names, with the people, were erased.

The Kaliningrad people seem not to resent the "nostalgic tourists". They see them more as foreign visitors than as potential claimants. They like to see their city recover its history; they fix Königsberg stickers on their cars and Königsberg posters on their walls and learn German at evening classes. Nor is there widespread fear of what may lie ahead.

Perhaps eight months has been too short a time for the second generation of Russian settlers to absorb the reality of their plight, cut off from Russia by the independent Baltic states. Some, however, have absorbed it all too well and hope that Kaliningrad's fortunes can only

improve. The city flourished as a port, open to the world, and could do so again.

Kaliningrad's situation, in the centre of the new configuration of Europe, will serve it well. And if the Russian authorities are blowing hot and cold about making it into a free-trade zone, perhaps the Germans might be interested. And if the Germans were to stake a territorial claim? They might find a far more hostile reception.

Moscow: A man from the breakaway Caucasus republic of Chechnya was killed by security forces at Vukovo airport, Moscow, after attempting to hijack an Aeroflot jet from Grozny to Turkey with a grenade, Tass said. The man, who was in his thirties, had threatened to blow up a Tupolev-134 aircraft.

## Czechoslovakia's future in the balance

### Election winners jockey for power

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BRATISLAVA

TWO men in whose hands power rests following the Czechoslovak elections squared up yesterday for talks that will decide whether Slovakia and the Czech Lands stay together as a federation.

The tandem of Vaclav Klaus, nominated as the provisional federal prime minister, and Vladimir Meciar, a Slovak, was created by the general elections on Saturday. The result gave Mr Klaus, the finance minister and architect of market reform, a majority in the Czech parliament and Mr Meciar's Movement for Democratic Slovakia a more significant lead in the Slovak assembly.

Now both men have to negotiate the shape of a federal government. The key issue — control of the Czechoslovak economy — is unlikely to be settled without a struggle and some radical new thinking. Mr Klaus's Civic Democratic party is committed to voucher privatisation and shock therapy treatment in heavy industry, much of which is based in Slovakia.

He also wants in the first instance to keep Czechoslovakia together. Mr Meciar wants to slow down the pace of economic change and pro-

tect Slovak industry. He is willing to take Czechoslovakia to the point of divorce to achieve that aim.

Much depends on the individual personalities of the two men. Both present an unflinching image of dogmatic politicians and are said, even by their friends, to be high-handed, sometimes arrogant, decision makers. What is unknown is their capacity for compromise.

Mr Klaus is a debonair man who is proud of his collection of silk ties and was never a dissident. He was an academic economist, schooled in the theories of market capitalism, an unconventional but permissible position during the communist era.

Mr Meciar was a Marxist, was educated in Moscow and was enthusiastic about the Prague Spring of Alexander Dubcek. After 1968 he lost his party card and worked in a glass factory. After the velvet revolution he became Slovak prime minister until he was ousted for his authoritarian manner.

As interior minister he was also involved in some mysterious shuffling of secret police files. Even his closest allies

have no clear idea what he believes in, but it appears to be an amalgam of reform socialism and Slovak nationalism.

Mr Klaus is a former basketball player while Mr Meciar is a former boxer: the difference in their physique is reflected in their political style. Where Mr Klaus is a stretcher, Mr Meciar is a puncher.

It seems that the times favour punchers. Mr Meciar goes into negotiations with three plausible variants. He can insist on a Slovak finance minister in the federal government. He can press for some form of dual control over the economy, with a policy for Slovaks and one for Czechs. Or he can withdraw from the federal government altogether and announce that Bratislava will run its own economic show.

That final option would be a knockout blow, in effect a unilateral declaration of independence. The first two options are bruising jabs at Mr Klaus, with some ducking and weaving he might be able to survive. Certainly if the politicians decide that there should be two economic policies, one for Slovaks and one for Czechs, then the institutional structure of the Slovak state will have to be changed. It would mean the end of federalism, but not necessarily the end of Czechoslovakia.

Mr Klaus is the weaker of the two politicians. Although he was the winner in the Czech parliament, in the federal parliament there is a large block of leftist and Slovak parties that are opposed to his market reforms. Politically and psychologically, he is reluctant to yield his personal control over the economy.

The most likely outcome of this week's early negotiations between the two men is that Mr Meciar will stall and allow a power vacuum to open up at the centre. He has made plain that he will not support President Havel's bid for reelection. With the present balance of forces that suggests that Mr Havel has no chance of success.

Post leaders, page 12

## Bosnians try to seize Serb guns

BY DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SARAJEVO suffered some of the worst shelling of the civil war yesterday and Bosnian defence forces launched a series of counter-attacks in an effort to knock out Serbian artillery overlooking the city. Shells, rockets and mortars fell every two minutes on the city and thousands of exhausted citizens were trapped without food, water or electricity, having reached what a Bosnian journalist described as "the end of endurance".

People prayed for United Nations Security Council action to reopen the airport to let in humanitarian aid.

Late in the day Muslim forces seized part of a Serb bastion in hills above the capital, local journalists reported.

A Bosnian university professor, an ethnic Serb who has been sharing the plight of Muslims and Croats in their basements for weeks, said: "In some parts of the city, because of burst waterpipes, children are already suffering from dehydration. We no longer feel like civilised beings and some of us are drinking the dirty water even though we are aware of what this might cause."

Brigadier General Lew Mackenzie, chief of staff of the 14,000-strong United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia, said a 1,000-strong contingent of troops, communications experts and medical staff was merely "waiting for word" from the security council to go in and secure Sarajevo airport. But Brigadier General Mackenzie, deputy commander of the peacekeeping force, said that severe logistical problems remained which would require far more troops to be involved if relief held at Serb border posts, due to a UN sanctions committee oversight, is to reach its destination.

President Izetbegovic of Bosnia has issued two appeals for help. One to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, spoke of the

danger of an ecological catastrophe for Central and South-east Europe should the chemical plant in Tuzla, an overwhelmingly Muslim town surrounded by Serbs, be hit. The second, to President Yeltsin of Russia, pleaded for additional pressure on Belgrade by Moscow to stop further devastation of Bosnian towns and villages.

In Belgrade, tear gas was thrown into the home of a Kuwait news agency correspondent, Jassin Rawashdeh, who was among the foreign journalists to have received death threats, said that an anonymous caller told him: "You dirty Arab and Muslim, we will kill you."

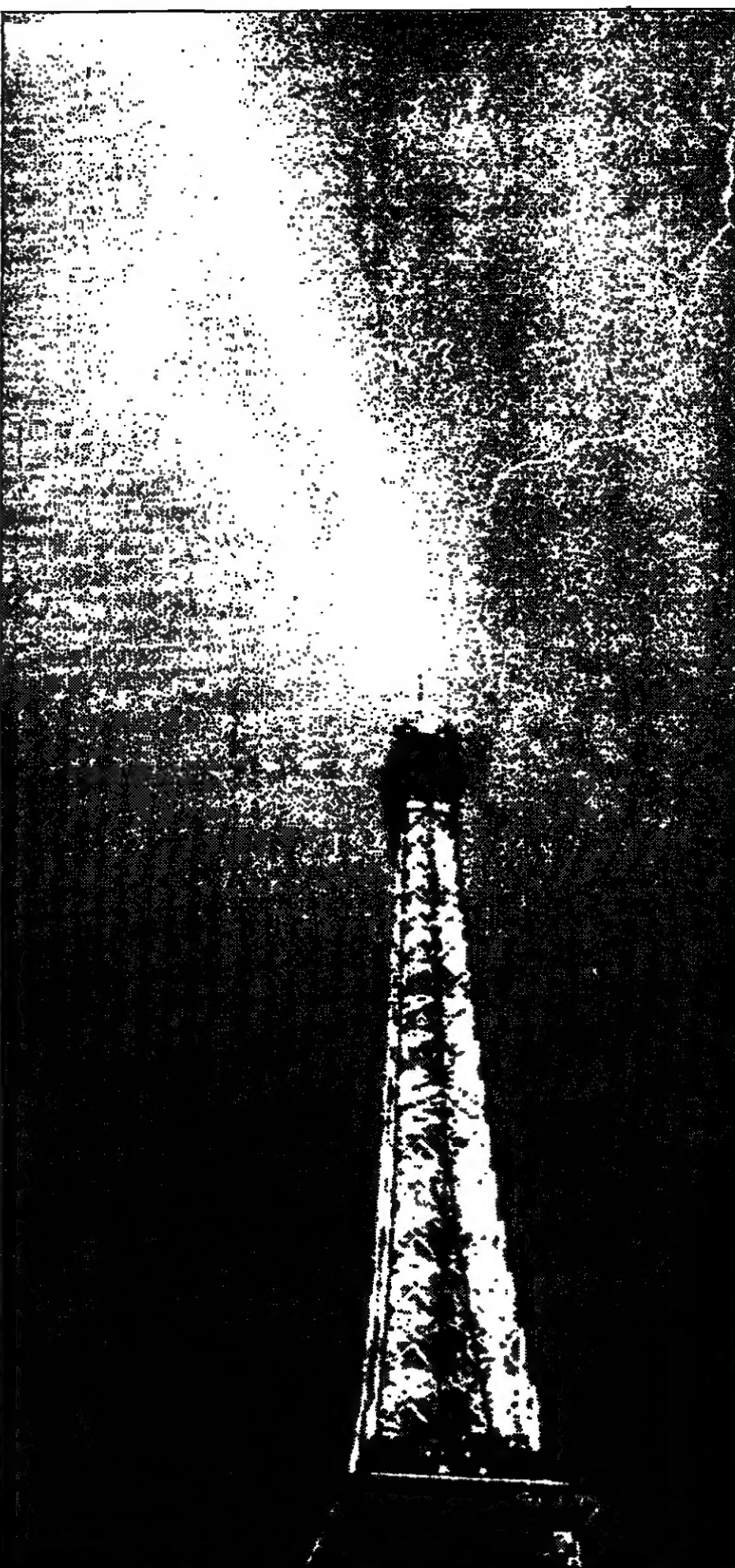
King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has donated \$8 million (\$4.4 million) to Muslims in Bosnia. The official Saudi news agency SPA, which was monitored in Cyprus, quoted the *Okaz* daily as saying that King Fahd had donated the money "from his own pocket". The paper said that the donation "has set an example" for Saudis to "give donations" to their brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In Zagreb, President Tudjman of Croatia said that he planned to meet Mr Izetbegovic this week to discuss a possible confederation between the two former Yugoslav states. "We have to start considering the question of our future relations," Mr Tudjman said.

Three French soldiers of the UN peacekeeping force were killed and one seriously injured when their armoured vehicle plunged off a bridge at Medak in southwestern Croatia on Sunday, the French defence ministry said.

● Ljubljana: Ivan Kramberger, 56, a Slovenian presidential candidate, was shot dead at an election meeting on Sunday in Jurovski Dol by a man arrested yesterday, the interior ministry said.

Sarajevo bombarded, page 1 Letters, page 13



Son et lumière: lightning transforming the night sky in Paris as a bolt strikes the top of the Eiffel Tower during a spectacular thunderstorm

## Yeltsin changes reform tactics

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

WITH speculation growing in Moscow that Russia's reformist government is being forced to retreat from its rush to a market economy, President Yeltsin promised yesterday that there would be no going back on the strategy of reforms. There would, however, be changes in tactics.

In phrasing reminiscent of his old campaign days, Mr Yeltsin said he knew that people were signing petitions for his resignation, but he insisted: "I will not give up my job so easily. I will not surrender. I will complete what I have begun."

The Russian president was speaking in the industrial city of Nizhni Tagil in the Urals where industry, heavily dominated by the defence sector, could collapse without state support, throwing hundreds of thousands out of work. Addressing a meeting in the city square, Mr Yeltsin said: "There will be no backtracking on the strategy of reform, but some changes will be made in tactics."

One of these changes would be continued state control of energy prices, at least until the end of the year. Andrei Nechayev, the minister of economics, introduced price ceilings for energy last month but predicted that the regulated prices would be overtaken by inflation, leaving no alternative but to free prices completely.

An undertaking to regulate energy prices was a concession to the hardliners at the Russian Congress of People's Deputies in April. Energy is one of the few areas where prices are still controlled by the state, and even Mr Yeltsin's supporters predict widespread hardship if fuel prices are freed.

One spectre lurking behind Mr Yeltsin's "tactical changes" is likely to be mass unemployment concentrated in areas, like Yekaterinburg, where the defence sector is dominant. Yesterday, Fedor Prokopyev, the chairman of the parliamentary committee on employment, predicted up to four million unemployed by the end of the year, leaving a 30 per cent gap between the budget for benefits and the amount needed.

Leading article, page 13

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Italians 'trained by KGB'

Rome: Italian historians have called on the former communist Democratic Party of the Left to open its archives after Russian officials disclosed that Italian Marxist militants received training at a KGB spy school as recently as 1974 (John Phillips writes).

The Italian Communist Party changed its name in February last year, but its records are not available to scholars. "With the death of communism there is no reason for this custom to exist," said Luciano Canfora, a historian.

Mikhail Poltoranin, the Russian information minister, has produced documents showing that 19 Italian activists received KGB training in cyphers, camouflage, disguises, forging documents and other cloak-and-dagger skills in Moscow in 1974.

### Mujahidin to release POWs

London: The British diplomatic mission, just returned from Kabul under the leadership of Martin Williams, head of the Foreign Office's South Asia department, has been told that two former Soviet soldiers still held in Afghanistan by Mujahidin fighters loyal to Ahmad Shah Massoud, now minister of defence, are to be released.

Muhammad Seljookie, the Afghan deputy foreign minister, told the delegates that about 20 former Soviet prisoners were still being held.

### Berlin delay

Bonn: Moving the German parliament and government from Bonn to the new capital, Berlin, has been delayed until 1998, said Rita Süssmuth, the parliamentary speaker. She said that the move would cost up to 13 billion marks (\$4.5 billion). (Reuters)

### Ossetia shelled

Moscow: At least ten people were killed and 40 wounded as Georgian irregulars shelled Tskhinvali, the capital of the breakaway region of South Ossetia, and used tanks and armoured personnel carriers to block routes to the city, Tass said. (Reuters)

### Demirel gains

Ankara: Turkey's two-party ruling coalition strengthened its hand in local elections, taking almost 60 per cent of the vote, state radio said. The centre-right True Path party of Süleyman Demirel, the prime minister, won 34.5 per cent of the vote. (Reuters)

### Far right rises

Stockholm: The far-right New Democracy party, which wants to restrict immigration to Sweden and cut the country's huge taxes, has doubled its support to 12.5 per cent since it appeared on the political scene last year, an opinion poll showed. (Reuters)

### Swiss protests

Zurich: Andres Suder, a Zurich teacher, has asked the Swiss supreme court to decide whether the federal government exceeded its constitutional powers in applying to join the European Community on May 18 and was guilty of treason. (Reuters)

### Killer confesses

Bastia, Corsica: A man convicted of murder twice before admitted killing an Italian couple at Corte in Corsica. Police said Antoine Lorenzi told them he shot the couple last week after becoming fed up with finding elegant ends on his balcony. (AFP)

## Azerbaijan picks leader with Western outlook

A Muslim republic has voted for a president who may act as a catalyst for other former Soviet regions. Robert Seely writes from Baku

THE voters of Azerbaijan chosen yesterday to have chosen as president a former dissident and political prisoner who will be the Muslim republic's first anti-communist leader for 70 years.

Provisional results from Sunday's poll, the first contested elections for the leadership of the former Soviet state, indicated that Abulfaz Elchibey, 54, has won between 60 and 70 per cent of the popular vote. While final results from remote regions will not be available for ten days, the Popular Front, a nationalist movement which Mr Elchibey heads, is already claiming victory on his behalf over the four other candidates.

Azerbaijan's break with the communist past will have serious repercussions for Central Asia and the Middle East, possibly acting as a catalyst for the more backward Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union where the old guard is still in control.

Mr Elchibey, a former history professor, is expected to pull his ethnically Turkic country out of Russia's sphere of influence and reorient it towards Turkey and, if possible, the West. Although little known beyond the region, the new Azerbaijani leader is a respected figure in Turkey, whose leading political parties gave him material support and advice.

By charting a genuinely independent foreign policy, Mr Elchibey risks angering Iran as well as Russia. Azerbaijan is in a state of war with its western neighbour, Armenia, over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The new president, one of the founders of the Popular Front and its campaign against Soviet authority in Azerbaijan, has pledged to withdraw from the Commonwealth of Independent States, a move that could alienate the Yeltsin administration. However, the election's first outcome may



be increased tension with Iran, where millions of ethnic Azerbaijanis may now be tempted to look to the nationalist government in Baku for cultural leadership, if nothing more.

Over the weekend, Mr Elchibey accused Iran of being a "totalitarian regime which covers itself in Islamic slogans". Many Azerbaijanis accuse Iran of showing bias towards the Armenians in its peace-making efforts in Nagorno-Karabakh. "There are cer-

tainly potential dangers from Iran's point of view. They feel threatened by Azerbaijan becoming independent," a Turkish observer said.

The war in Nagorno-Karabakh has humiliated and destabilised Azerbaijan. There are hundreds of thousands of refugees in Baku, both from Armenia proper and from Nagorno-Karabakh.

While Turkey has supplied some humanitarian aid, the former Azerbaijani government failed to provide the war victims with adequate support. As election results were being counted, several hundred people made homeless in the recent fighting picketed parliament demanding accommodation. "We have got only what we can carry, we have no means of existence."

Vladimir Kaganovon, a refugee, said.

By the standards of former Soviet republics with little experience of democracy, observers judged the elections to be satisfactory. Infringements were judged to be the result of disorgani-

sation rather than vote-rigging. Since Azerbaijan proclaimed independence last August, the economic situation has worsened, with the collapse of traditional economic ties. Little is left of the oil-based prosperity that once made Baku one of the wealthiest cities in the region.

● Christmas: Several people were killed and wounded in renewed fighting that has broken out between Moldavian forces and Slav separatists in Transdniestria, the breakaway region in eastern Moldova, the Moldovan defence ministry said. The ministry said that two Moldavian police officers were seriously wounded and there were a number of dead and wounded among forces of the self-styled republic of Transdniestria during fighting around the village of Koshnitsa. Early yesterday, Transdniestrian guards attacked a hydro-electric dam at Dubossary.

They destroyed one electrical transformer and caused 20 tons of oil to leak into the Dnestr river, officials reported. (AFP)

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## The snare of wedded bliss

Middle-class romantic ideals endanger the aristocracy, argues Janet Daley

Constitutional crisis there may not be, but the feeling in the bus queues is that it is rather a bad show. Couldn't the heir to the throne and his wife just grit their teeth and bear it for duty's sake? Must royals or their appointed friends resort to gross indiscretion to vie for popular sympathy? And what is all the fuss about anyway: how many royal marriages have truly been happy?

There was a time when monarchs endured the private agonies of their marriages with honourable dignity. Indeed they scarcely regarded marriage as a source of personal happiness. The preservation of dynasties, the forging of foreign alliances and above all the need for heirs were the priorities. If the participants were able to tolerate each other beyond the brief intimacy required to produce an "heir and a spare", then it was an unexpected bonus. They were fortunate even to have much of a say in the matter, since affairs of state were far too important to be left to the whim of infatuation.

Part of the job description of a monarch was to make a match which would be profitable for his country in trade or military terms. Romantic love and sexual pleasure were quite different, and were to be pursued with greater or lesser abandon depending on the mores of the times.

And the rest of the aristocracy generally followed suit. International alliances may not have been at stake, but the continuity of estates and titles meant that marriage had to be a business-like arrangement. Like the royals around whom they orbited, the inheriting classes took a view of matrimony and family life generally which combined civility with cynicism in more or less equal degrees.

When Edward VII was on his deathbed, Queen Alexandra is reputed to have summoned his mistress to his side so that she could share his final moments. This was certainly magnanimous, but it also showed that she saw her marriage very differently from the way most of her subjects understood the institution then (which is how even more people view it now).

For that was before the ideas of romance and marriage became entwined in the middle-class ideal.

What we all seem to want now — whether we are royal, titled, suburban or plebeian — is the lifelong love match: the partnership of soul-mates which will combine sexual fulfilment with companionship, and the sharing of children with a meeting of minds. One of the factors in the royal marriage débâcle seems to be the discrepancy between the old idea that monarchs marry out of duty and afterwards (as the euphemism goes) "live their own lives", and the middle-class model, which has now become so universal that it has permeated the highest and the lowest reaches of society.

The cold but functional contract that was once accepted by the

upper classes has given way across the board, as have the rigours of working-class (usually common law) marriage, brutalised by hardship and deprivation, which prevailed in earlier centuries. Bourgeois family life is now seen as the birthright of every member of every class. Based on what social historians call "companionate marriage" — in which two people choose each other out of affection with a view, as they say in the personal ads, to lifelong partnership — the idea of the happy family is not new in itself, but it is a novelty to some sections of the population.

It is not only at the palace that this preoccupation with marriage as the ultimate relationship is causing havoc. Among the working classes, where the divorce rate is soaring, the damage is incalculable. Urged by every woman's magazine to examine endlessly the quality of their union and evaluate every facet of their sexual and emotional rapport for flaws, working-class wives feed their own dissatisfaction. Husbands un-

**Romance is fine for those with sensibilities refined by 18th-century poetry and 19th-century novels**

equipped by upbringing for the formidable analysis which ever-vigilant middle-class marriage requires, simply become defensive and hostile. For what began with romantic fiction has been elaborated by psycho-babble. Relationships are not only the mainspring of life, they are the principal subject of meaningful discussion. A relationship that cannot be talked about is no relationship at all. Which is fine if you are the articulate product of a literary education whose sensibilities have been refined by 18th-century poetry and 19th-century novels. Not only are you then at home with the sentiments of romantic love, but you even have a command of the verbal currency of those emotions. Hard luck on those who have not read the books or had the adolescent apprenticeship in talking about their feelings which is the particular speciality of the verbally facile young. Almost equally deprived in this respect are the thick-skinned, bone-headed aristocracy and the educationally shortchanged proletariat.

The disappointments of the inarticulate can be remedied by a fairer distribution of education and self-regard. For the royals there is no such easy solution.

The sacrifice of a personal life must once have seemed a fair price for the power and privilege of monarchy. What did it matter being forced to marry a trout if your kingdom could gain greater influence and glory? But for what are the present lot being asked to give up the ubiquitous dream of private contentment? For a starring role in a tabloid fantasy? To be the linchpin of a tourist theme park? Before we accept too readily that the monarchy itself is under no threat from the latest scandal, perhaps we should ask what sort of contradictory demands are being put on the lives of people who are not so unlike the rest of us as they used to be.

Frank Field welcomes help for the Maxwell pensioners as the first step to real reform

## A pensions liferaft



Embezzler: Robert Maxwell

organisations go to countries like Liechtenstein is that they can ringfence themselves from normal financial investigations. The special unit which Mr. Lilley announced to play a strategic role in the battle to regain these funds is another welcome initiative.

On other fronts — preventing drug barons from hiding away their loot, and clamping down on international terrorism — the government has taken the lead in reaching new international agreements. It should now act similarly in cases involving financial fraud.

As well as reducing the eventual bill the taxpayer has to foot, the drip-feeding of pension funds has another advantage. By keeping the pension funds in existence, the government ensures that they can continue to receive pension contributions from both workers and new employers. This again helps the long-run objective of successfully rebuilding the financial basis of the schemes.

The government's rescue plan is in its own political interests as well. The financial watchdog Imro has

now completed its report on how Maxwell was allowed to plunder his pension schemes. Soon after the election, the government made plain its intention of publishing the report once the Securities and Investment Board has approved it. I shall be surprised if the Department of Trade and Industry gets off with a clean bill of health. It seems that Imro made plain some

the committee undertake its work in public, and that its membership is not dominated by the bigwigs of the pension industry, who until very recently showed an alarming degree of complacency about their stewardship.

It remains to be seen if the review's terms of reference are wide enough to allow it to consider reforms which would make pension contributors holders of their own pension contributions. Reform along this line would involve a redistribution of wealth which would make the sale of council houses look small beer by comparison. It would also initiate an era of self-regulation, when individuals would have the right to transfer their assets to other approved schemes.

All the Maxwell pensioners who appeared before the select committee said that if possible they would have withdrawn all their assets from Maxwell's control on the day he took over their company. It is a pity the regulatory machinery and politicians were not as streetwise as Maxwell's employees.

The author is Labour MP for Birkenhead, and was chairman of the social security select committee in the last parliament.

## Exit the poet-leader

Intellectual politicians have had their day, says Roger Boyes



Symbol of freedom in Eastern Europe: even President Vaclav Havel may soon relinquish power

Democrat freed from jail just months before sweeping to power in Slovakia, lost his job at the weekend and announced he was going into opposition to "safeguard democracy". He looked happier than ever in the past two years: inside is just like outside.

A certain romantic culture grew around these men, the outgoing political class. They were not all playwrights like Mr. Havel, or essayists like Adam Michnik, or sculptors and architects like Laszlo Rajk; some were merely frustrated translators or plodding historians. But they lived the myth, drinking hard. When Polish and Czechoslovak dissidents met secretly in the Tatras Mountains in the 1980s, they swallowed litres of vodka. They had Bohemian love lives and enjoyed the special freedom that comes with acting openly in a closed society.

In 1989 he became foreign minister. This week, his party, the Civic Movement — the group closest to Mr. Havel — failed miserably at the polls, and Mr. Dienstbier is out of a job again. Mr. Carnogursky, a Christian

Mr. Havel calls this period "a lost paradise of innocence". And he goes to the nub: "Having intellectuals in high places does not guarantee good government. Reason and intellect are not enough unless you add honesty." Honesty, in this case, means lack of vanity, ability to abandon unrenounceable positions and recognise conflicting interests. These were not the strengths of the dissidents Mr. Havel calls "the suffering class".

The innocence of this political group was lost as soon as secret police files were introduced into the parliamentary game in Central Europe. The potency of the files is not that they dig up unsavoury facts about neighbours — everyone knew about, or at least suspected, the informer in university or school classes and on the factory floor. Instead the revelations hit at the heroic myth of

dissident life in central Europe. Many dissidents were approached for information or collaboration, and some agreed, if only to gain a passport for relatives or protection for a friend. General Czeslaw Kiszczak, former communist interior minister of Poland, recently said that 90 per cent of Solidarity underground cells had been infiltrated by his agents in the 1980s. It is this realisation that has done more than anything to destroy the confidence of the dissident-politician, and rob him of his moral authority. Better by far, say the young generation of voters, choose a modern politician.

The release of files in Poland has opened up the wounds that lacerate German and Czechoslovak society. Was Leszek Moczulski, leader of the Ultra-Nationalist Confederation — another

jailed — really a secret agent? Was Lech Walesa a secret collaborator with the police?

These are the semi-revelations oozing out of Polish parliamentary committees. The claims are easy to make and impossible to disprove. Some accusations must surely derive from forged dossiers. Whatever the truth, the wave of disclosure probably marks the end of a revolutionary myth. Who has been opening the files? In Poland the man responsible was another former political prisoner, the interior minister Antoni Macierewicz, a Maoist in the 1950s, a passionate disciple of Che Guevara's teachings, a member of a workers' defence committee, and now, with equal commitment and passion, a militant Catholic. He talks of his former fellow dissidents as if they were rodents.

The break up of the Solidarity establishment in Poland, and indeed of the whole anti-totalitarian coalition of Eastern Europe, has been a terrible shock. The new parties set up to replace those ramshackle but often charming and spontaneous alliances are still untested, and not wholly trusted.

As the Czechoslovak election showed, people prefer to vote for strong personalities, rather than for unknown parties. But not dissidents, with their vaguely hippyish manners and their penchant for listening to the Kinks and chain-smoking throughout the night. The new politicians are in the mould of Vaclav Klaus. The current federal prime minister was never a dissident, did not sign Charter 77, but by the same token was never bullied into signing a police confession. He was an academic economist quietly waiting his moment. In Poland a new generation of post-Solidarity politicians on the rise: young, clean-shaven mineral-water drinkers who talk knowledgeably about the Adam Smith Institute. They are the new professionals, assessed on their competence and their ability to compromise, rather than their skill in holding a midnight discussion on Kierkegaard.



...and moreover  
**CRAIG BROWN**

I was delighted to be granted the rare privilege of an interview with Enoch Powell on his 80th birthday. Prior to our appointment, I had sent him a greetings card. "Happy Birthday", it said.

I received a correction by return of post. "By its or their very nature, a birthday or birthdays need no more be an occasion or occasions for happiness than for any other display or displays of human emotion: nevertheless, to the extent to which such felicitations form an expression of sympathy from their begotter to their recipient, I render unto you my thanks."

Such cheery warmth belies Mr Powell's somewhat austere public image. As anyone who has shared in one of his legendary picnics will testify, he is no stranger to fun, and he is a marvellous host. "Within this happy hamper — a misnomer, incidentally, as it is, in fact, a help or assistance — there are slices of dough, baked in an oven, allowed to cool and then sliced and buttered, each buttered slice placed on top of another buttered slice, with a filling, or fillings, inserted in between, forming a sandwich," he announced at our last picnic together: "would anyone — or, that is, anyone assembled within this invited party here today — care for such a comestible?"

Within a clear three hours, we were all tucking into our sandwiches and swapping light-hearted anecdotes about ancient Sparta. It was with such

happy memories reeling in my mind that I rang the doorbell of Mr Powell's house last week. There was no reply, so I bent my ear to the door.

"It is difficult to imagine that the bell we have just heard is not that which is attached to the door to signal the arrival of a visitor, or visitors, so I feel disposed to act on the presumption that such a likelihood is indeed correct," I heard Mr Powell saying to his wife. He then opened the door. "I have been right in the past," he said, staring me in the face, "and I fancy I am right once more."

With a flourish, he led me into his study, festooned with photographs taken at various stages of his political career: one of them marking the occasion on which he proposed the abolition of the internal combustion engine ("thus reawakening in my fellow countrymen that spirit by which their forefathers prospered and subsequent generations discovered the virtues in horse and leg"), another commemorating his stark warning that mauve octopuses would soon be parachuting onto common land from the sky the length and breadth of Great Britain, to take up residence in the bays and basins of the ordinary, decent citizens.

I asked him whether he now felt this latter warning to have been faulty. "One must define faulty, must one not? The invasion of mauve octopuses never occurred, or at least was never established to have occurred: I will grant you that much. But

would it have occurred had I not warned against it? That is something, as the philosopher would say, upon which one should not be expected accurately to pronounce. But let me say this, and let me say it with due clarity. I have been informed with no little reliability by a great number of my fellow citizens that both octopuses and squid are to be found — often under the guise of foreign nomenclature — on the menus in restaurants and other houses of eating. I merely point this out as a coincidence, nothing more." A knowing grin lit his face.

He then intoned one of those celebrated Powellian aphorisms. "A grapefruit, as Horace would have realised, is not a banana," he said, adding, more controversially, "but a banana is undoubtedly a grapefruit." Such acuity has not always endeared him to his political colleagues: perhaps this — together with his adhesion to linguistic precision — is why he never gained high office. Invited by Macmillan to sit in the cabinet, he placed himself snarlingly in the nearest cupboard. When Macmillan remonstrated, Enoch turned to him with those piercing eyes and exclaimed, "The mistake is yours, Harold. You made no mention whatsoever of the capital 'C' in the word 'Cabinet'."

At the end of our interview, I bade him goodbye. "If your suggestion is that you are now departing," he concluded warmly, "then you need be afraid of no contention."

## Victims of victory...

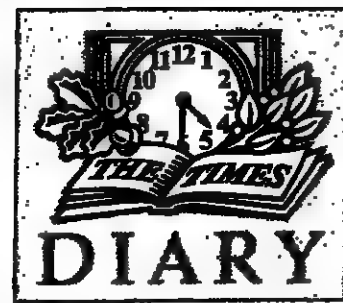
IN WHAT looks suspiciously like an act of political victimisation, the victory bonus being paid to Tory party election staff has been withheld from two of Chris Patten's closest allies.

To the astonishment of party workers, election campaign director Shaun Woodward has decided to exclude Angie Bray, Patten's personal press officer, and Patrick Rock, his special adviser, from the payout. Each might have expected to receive £1,000.

Woodward — whose own £70,000-a-year job is under review by Sir Norman Fowler, the new party chairman — says that Bray and Rock are not entitled to the money, because they have since left the party's employment. The excuse does not hold water, for others who have since moved on have already received their bonuses. All other permanent employees at Smith Square during the election, including the secretaries, have already received the extra money.

Bray, aged 38, formerly one of the most highly regarded political operators at Conservative Central Office, left last month to work for the political lobbyists Ian Greer Associates. Her leaving party at Central Office was attended by half the cabinet. Rock was for many years one of Patten's most loyal aides, having worked with him at the Department of Environment before his move to central office. Both were with Patten night and day during the campaign.

Senior party figures have now interceded on their behalf, and Woodward has agreed to reconsider their position. "I haven't been told anything," says Bray. "It is an ongoing process, and I trust it will be settled amicably."



...and defeat

FACING AN uncertain future, Labour at least has a glorious past in which to bask — or rather, it had. The party's unique library of historical socialist documents has been closed following the redundancy of two-thirds of the staff. John McTernan, the sole remaining librarian, has unilaterally shut the doors, telling academics and researchers they are not welcome.



until his former colleagues are reinstated. "The library is no longer open to the public or party members," he has told the Library Association. "And I won't handle written enquiries." Among those hit are historian Ben Pimlott, who has used the library while writing his forth-

coming biography of Harold Wilson. "It would be a tragedy if this library were not available to the public. There are documents and pamphlets dating back to the 1930s that are unobtainable elsewhere." Indeed, in those days the party even used to win elections.

● The royal family seems to get a better press in *La République* than at home these days. The magazine *Le Parisien* relegated the problems of the Waleses' marriage deep inside its pages while under the headline "Les Anglais nous aiment", it devoted its cover and first three pages to the *Passport to France* series in this newspaper. "Le très sérieux Times". Meanwhile President Mitterrand is so taken with the Queen's visit that for her drive down the Champs Elysées today he has made available the rare convertible Citroën SM coupe last used by the triumphant socialist leader for his victory drive through the streets of Paris 11 years ago.

## Justice for Charles

MODERN PURVEYORS of royal gossip should count themselves lucky that the monarch's family no longer sees for libel. On the last occasion legal action was taken in such a case, Edward Mylius — a pioneer of "rat pack" journalism — found himself thrown into prison for 12 months.

Mylius' crime was to suggest in *The Liberator* in 1911 that George V was guilty of bigamy with Mary Elizabeth Culme-Seymour, later Lady Napier, and the queen. Not only was Mylius jailed, he was barred from calling his only witness, the king. The full tale will be told later this year in a book by Priscilla Napier, the 83-year-old grand-daughter of Lady Napier. "The attorney-general

said it would be unconstitutional for the king to take the witness box," she says.

Lord St John of Fawsley confirms that anyone attempting to call the Queen as a witness today would meet the same obstacle. "The constitutional rule is that the sovereign as the source of justice cannot give evidence in a court of law," he says. There is, however, nothing to stop the Prince of Wales being called to the witness-stand, argues Lord St John — as indeed Edward the VII was twice while heir to the throne.

But has the time come for the royal family to break with convention and to start issuing writs for defamation? "It would be most imprudent for the Prince of Wales to do so," says Lord St John. "His private life would be subjected to examination and all the old rumours would be dredged up."

Lady Napier's grand-daughter thinks changing times mean he is probably right. "In 1911, the entire British press backed the king. It is all rather different today."

● Bill McAlister, former director of London's ICA, has been called in to transform Kiev's Lenin Museum into a Ukrainian version of the ICA in the Mall. McAlister has just returned from the city, where he has been advising the government on how to turn the giant marble memorial to the father of Soviet communism into an experimental institute supporting avant-garde artists. But he is fighting a rival bid to turn it into Ukraine's first stock-exchange. "Either way they will have to blow up the huge central statue of Lenin first. But it seems to expose the dilemma of the new democracy: should it turn a tribute to communism into a financial shrine to the new-found capitalism or a cultural centre for their new-found artistic freedom?"





# FRAUD-PROOF PENSIONS

If capitalism lets you down, should you be able to sue the government which sold it to you? Of the many good questions raised by the plight of the Maxwell pensioners, this is the most intriguing. The government's creed is not total laissez faire but a regulated market, with laws and supervisors to prevent abuses. If abuses still happen, whose fault is it? If there was negligence, who pays up?

For more than a decade the Tories have fostered the ideal of private pensions for all. Undoubtedly the fear of being ripped off by unscrupulous bosses was a deterrent. To encourage employees to opt out of the state system, therefore, the government and the industry set up the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) to be the self-regulator of the pensions and insurance industry with statutory powers, to reassure potential investors and contributors their money would be safe.

Now pensioners defrauded by Robert Maxwell are claiming Imro failed in its role, and in any event was operating in an inadequate legal framework which the government knew of and should have rectified. Both claims have some merit. Many retired former employees of various Maxwell companies did indeed trust their pension money to a private fund on the assumption that the government could be relied on to see such funds were properly run. Then Maxwell raided their savings, for the sake of his own greed and megalomania. Imro did not stop him; the law was indeed too weak; the government should surely have acted sooner. But what now? Hand-wringing will not fill a hungry pensioner's purse.

Yesterday ministers were reacting politically. Many MPs, including many Tories, have constituents who were defrauded by Maxwell. They have been passing their anxieties upwards to the party management, which does not have the will to resist the pressure. Peter Lilley, social security sec-

retary, announced a grant of government money so that pensions about to be stopped or cut can continue to be paid. Meanwhile the government will look for a longer-term answer. Perhaps the banks will cough up — Mr Lilley thought they ought to — or the missing Maxwell millions may return home by another route. But having turned the tap on, it is hard to believe the government will ever dare turn it off completely, at least without an alternative source of funding.

Self-regulated industries do sometimes allow for compensation for customers harmed or wronged by a levy on the pockets of all those selling the service or goods. It may seem a simple extension that when the harm results from some failure that can be laid at the government's door, such as allowing an inadequate regulatory framework of law, a similar concept of liability should apply. Except that the resources to meet claims would be the general funds of the Exchequer. The Treasury will always say that hardship is already taken care of by social security benefits on the basis of need, and what other reason is there for disturbing public funds in the absence of strict legal liability? And that is an unanswerable objection. But as a result, claims based on contributions paid, and therefore on what might have been earned in pension, cannot be met by the state. Had it existed, such claims could have been made against a guarantee fund drawn from an industry-wide levy.

The government has announced a review of pensions law, and the CBI has just launched an enquiry into the company-pension business. Perhaps looking to America where such a system exists, they must find better ways to compensate victims of pension fraud, on a basis of shared risk and mutual insurance. Even when the government has caused the difficulty, calling on public funds for compensation is too thin an end of too wide a wedge. Capitalism also means self help.

# HURTING, BUT WORKING

Russia's economic reforms appear to be faltering. Last week President Yeltsin removed one of the leading members of the youthful reformist team led by Yegor Gaidar, the first deputy prime minister, and appointed three new cabinet members from the old Soviet military-industrial complex. He named Vladimir Shumelko as another first deputy prime minister, nominally equal to Mr Gaidar. But he is likely to be the main influence now in the government, and a brake on the heavy moves to full liberalisation, wholesale privatisation of the antiquated industrial structure, and convertibility of the rouble.

The reform team was also shaken by the attempted resignation of Georgi Matyukhin, chairman of Russia's central bank, whose insistence on maintaining relatively high interest rates alienated parliament. Mr Yeltsin insists that these changes do not lessen his determination to move to a full market economy as demanded by the International Monetary Fund. But even as the IMF puts together a package to underwrite the West's offer of \$24 billion in credits and stand-by loans, its relations with Moscow are rapidly cooling.

Russian papers that usually support Mr Gaidar speak of the dispersal and weakening of his team, even hinting that the old stalwarts of the communist command economy are trying to claw back power. They say that the new government has abandoned reform, taking fright at high inflation and selling out to the generals of heavy industry. The replacement of the oil minister by the former chairman of the Soviet gas industry is seen as a particular blow to Mr Gaidar, a loss of nerve at the impending rise in energy prices.

The IMF and the West may share some of these anxieties. But they should not be too concerned. It was obvious that Mr Yeltsin, under enormous domestic pressure to ease the hardships caused by price rises often three times steeper than wage increases, would have to duck and weave to disarm his

conservative opponents. Both he and Mr Gaidar would see that their reforms are still broadly on course. They could argue that the next and by far the more difficult stage of reform — the privatisation of industry, which still accounts for the bulk of economic activity — could not go ahead without the support of its main representatives, and without some kind of cushioning to ensure that the structure does not go bankrupt when exposed to market forces and international competition.

Some slowing down was also likely in the rush to make the rouble convertible. It is desirable to abolish the access to scarce goods for the privileged few. It is important to give the Russian currency international worth, not least for other republics attempting improbably to introduce their own currencies while remaining in the rouble zone. But the rouble cannot be floated on international markets within a month except at hugely depressed rates. It already has virtual free convertibility on any street corner within Russia.

The Russian government will come under pressure from the IMF and again at the G7 conference in Munich next month, where tough conditions may be asked of Mr Yeltsin. He can only go so far in meeting these. Where he most needs Western support is in his determination to appeal over the heads of his hardline opponents in forcing a referendum on giving the land back to the people. He can also say that whatever the wobbles in Moscow, reform has its own momentum in the villages and provincial cities. Here the abolition of communism is beginning to encourage individualism, a return to the land and to bustling markets.

The reformers now ask only to be left alone by Moscow, and they will see off the old guard. None of the recent setbacks was unexpected. The wonder is that in a country steeped in lethargy and corruption, so much has been achieved since Russians took their destiny into their own hands.

# FINE LINES OF TIME

Time writes his wrinkles on man's brow, and there is precious little man (or woman, for that matter) can do to stop him. This news is no official, after today's report by the Consumers' Association that cosmetic creams are useless, and in some cases counter-productive, at curing aging skin of the tracks of time. Wrinkles are part of the human condition, ever since the serpent in the Garden of Eden persuaded Eve to sample his organic, biochemical apple.

This does not discourage humans from trying to smooth out the wrinkles. These days anti-aging cosmetics are a multi-million pound business, including organically correct magical ingredients from royal jelly to monkey glands, spinal cord to animal thymus, or the traditional recipe of herbs culled by moonlight in a virgin meadow with a previously unused obsidian sickle. All are worthless, and exorbitantly expensive, according to the *Which?* report on health.

The panel of dermatologists who examined the principal unguents and their claims were unimpressed. They concluded that the most such creams can do is shield the skin from the sun, trap moisture temporarily to make the skin shine, or puff it up to camouflage wrinkles. The best way to protect skin is to eat a healthy diet and stay out of the sun. Falling in love does more than biotechnology for the youthful appearance.

As the body grows older, its outer sack gets looser, drier, thinner — and wrinkled. Three processes are at work. The dermis (the skin's scaffolding layer) begins to wither as its elastic fibres deteriorate. The collapse of the dermis is accelerated by exposure to ultra violet radiation in sunlight — what modern vanity wins on the sultan it loses on the

wrinkles. Older skin is less able to hold moisture, so that it feels rough and tight, and fine lines appear.

The dermatologists are no doubt scientifically exact. But they have no prospect of even denting the sales of anti-aging creams. Belief in an elixir of youth is the oldest example of wishful thinking. It used to be a fountain of youth, which people drank or were dipped in to prevent wrinkles. Bimini, the legendary island in the Bahamas, was only one of many sites of such a sovereign remedy for the aging process. In 1512 Ponce de León set off to find the Fountain of Youth, and discovered Florida instead. With Disneyland and its retirement towns for the chronologically challenged, Florida has become a monument to his quest.

Life is harder for the mature today. The cult of youth has its harsh epithets of "wrinkles" and "crumblies" and its bias against employing grown-ups in immature trades such as television announcing and air hestensing. Things are worse for women than men, who are taken (by men at least) to look interesting even with wrinkles. But most of those who buy such creams cannot really believe that they are going to find the secret of eternal youth in a jar. They oil up as a gesture against the old enemy, like putting on a smelly frock or a flowered tie. The prunes in Tom Lehrer's song are not bothered by wrinkles, because they know full well that, no matter how old a prune may be, hot water makes her swell.

That is all that miracle moisturisers do to the skin. But everyone above a certain age knows that no spring nor summer beauty hath such grace as can be seen in the autumnal face — wrinkles and all.

# Value for money in civil service

From the General Secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants

Sir, Your leading article, "To prune the state" (June 2), implied that Mr William Waldegrave's speech to business leaders on June 1 heralded the end of national pay bargaining in the civil service.

In fact civil service unions and the Treasury have been negotiating on a break-up of national bargaining for over six months. Moreover, there are not "various" pay review bodies in the civil service, as stated in your article, but only one, making recommendations on the pay of 668 senior civil servants in Whitehall; the review body's recommendations have always been regarded as "benchmarks", indeed they have only been implemented in full once in the last six years.

You did not comment upon the omissions from Mr Waldegrave's speech in respect of privatisation — omissions such as safeguards for confidentiality. How many of us — indeed how many MPs — want their tax affairs dealt with in the commercial arena? How many want their business competitors to have access to their dealings with the Department of Trade and Industry or Customs and Excise?

How many private-sector companies can be said to be truly impartial? Those who make political donations? And what about the conflicts of interest between the department or agency and another client or private-sector firm?

There is too the issue of real value for money. Messrs Cooper and Lybrand did not tender for the privatised work of the Schools Inspectorate quite simply because they could not meet the very low costs of the current arrangements. The logic is that the government will either have to pay more for privatising inspectorate work or farm it out to companies who are willing to do a less than adequate job. Above all, your editorial has completely ignored the fact that standards of service in a privatised company stop at the bottom line of the balance sheet. But the civil service serves the wider interest of people as a whole, and preserves the equity of standards that is vital in a decent and fair society.

Yours sincerely,  
ELIZABETH SYMONS,  
General Secretary,  
The Association of First Division Civil Servants,  
2 Canton Street, SW1,  
June 2.

# Aiding suicide

From Mr Stephen Mulliner

Sir, Dr Brewer and others (letter, June 4) draw attention to the fact that the Attorney General appears to be disinclined to prosecute the publishers and vendors of *Final Exit*, a book giving detailed information about committing suicide. They ask why, if bookshelves may aid and abet suicide, doctors may not.

The simple answer is that if I read a book, I can make up my own mind. If I am advised by a doctor, I may well have my mind made up for me and give reluctant agreement to an accelerated demise.

This question also powerfully illustrates the gulf between those who actively advocate euthanasia and what I believe to be a large majority of people who reject it. This majority, comprising the religious and the secular, would probably not condemn an individual who deliberately and voluntarily ended a painful and over-prolonged existence.

However, it rightly and instinctively revolts at the notion of inconvenient old people being persuaded to die at the hands of relatives and medical advisers who might facilitate euthanasia.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN MULLINER,  
Witherden, Weydown Road,  
Haslemere, Surrey.

# Collector's items

From Mr R. A. Gekoski

Sir, Your Diary on June 3 quotes the president of the Sylvia Plath Society as regretting my sale of a copy of *Plath's The Colossus* inscribed to Ted Hughes and the potential "loss" of further books. But this copy — given to Hughes, incidentally, not "left" to him — has no substantial research value, and libraries are characteristically wise enough to avoid buying such collector's items. Indeed, though my catalogues are sent to over 300 libraries, with advance copies to the British Library and the Bodleian, not one evinced any interest in purchasing the book.

Many ex-libris and presentation copies of books by recently deceased poets, like Larkin or Bejerman, have been offered for sale recently without inuendo from the press, hostility to the vendor, or cries of outrage from a literary society. Sylvia Plath has been dead for 29 years; isn't it time that the carping misapprehension regarding the slightest of her affairs, and of those who knew her, was laid to rest?

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. GEKOSKI  
(Bookseller and publisher),  
33B Chalcot Square, NW1,  
June 3.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

# Maastricht opt-out far from easy

From Mr Nicholas Aylott

Sir, Stephen Woodard of the European Movement (letter, June 6) assumes that Maastricht's rejection by the Danes can "easily be overcome by the use of the same opt-out formula which overcame British objections to the early drafts of the agreement". His complacency is misplaced.

The EC's constitution makes no provision for such derogations, and it may turn out that Britain's opt-out of Maastricht's social chapter is practically unworkable. First, it may contravene the principle of equal social rights for all Community citizens in any member state, stipulated in article 172 of the Treaty of Rome and confirmed in subsequent judgments by the European Court of Justice.

Second, the chapter authorises its 11 signatories "to have recourse to the institutions, procedures and mechanisms" of the Community, including the European Parliament, in promulgating social policy. This offers the curious prospect of British MEPs voting on measures that will be applicable to other Community citizens, but not their own constituents.

All in all, the scope for reconciling Denmark with the Maastricht treaty is extremely narrow. Ideally, the EC should adopt an entirely new treaty containing constitutional provisions for member states to opt out of certain legislation. But if the government means that signed Maastricht are really bent on its implementation, they must be prepared to bully one of their number into leaving the Community altogether.

Yours,  
N. AYLOTT,  
33 Sycamore Court,  
Fallowfield, Manchester 14,  
June 8.

From Mr Derek Prag, MEP for Herefordshire (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, Sir Roy Denman's letter (June 4) is full of wisdom. But unfortunately his proposal to split the Community into those member states which are prepared to accept the aim of a federal union and those who are not, and to let the former go ahead and draft their own blueprint for coherent further development, has a major snag.

It would mean that all the real decisions were taken by the federal union, and that the others, including us, would be dragged along willy nilly.

That is surely why Sweden, Finland and Austria now want to join the European Community as soon as possible rather than simply be members of the newly-created European Economic Area. That is surely why, when the crunch has come, Britain has always rejected a two-speed Europe in which we remained in the slow lane.

We have been prepared, at a pinch, to accept differentiation in the

strictly limited areas of the exchange-rate mechanism (temporarily) and social policy. But when it comes to European laws, European policy in general, and our role in deciding them, I really cannot see Britain being content to sit back and let others decide our fate. Our place is at the heart of Europe.

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK PRAG,  
47 New Road, Digsell,  
Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Madron Seligman, MEP for Sussex West (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, The Maastricht treaty is not dead. It has just not yet been born. It will not be alive until all 12 member states have ratified it.

Meanwhile each member state can carry on with the ratification process. If and when all 12 do ratify it or a modified version of it, the treaty will come into force.

In the meantime the European Community will continue to function under the Single Act which was finally ratified in July 1987.

Yours sincerely,  
MADRON SELIGMAN,  
Mickleham House, Nuthurst,  
Nr Horsham, West Sussex.

From Sir John Acland

Sir, After the referendum in Denmark, the prime minister was today reported as saying: "I am not in favour of a referendum in a parliamentary democracy, and I do not propose to put one before the British people."

The 1975 referendum was concerned with a common market, not with the erosion of national sovereignty; and, in the recent election, voters could not express a view because all three major parties apparently supported the Maastricht treaty. Thus the people of this country, however Mr Major may see it, have not been given the right to express their opinion.

Why does the government show such contempt for democracy and such lack of courage in denying Britons the same opportunity as was offered to the Danes?

Yours faithfully,  
J. H. B. ACLAND,  
Feniton Court, Honiton, Devon,  
June 4.

From Mr Jeremy Cross

Sir, What can my economics and politics pupils do now? They have been preparing for months for questions based on the development of the European Community at Maastricht, and their exams start this week.

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY CROSS,  
Downside School,  
Straton-on-the-Fosse,  
Bath, Avon,  
June 8.

Business letters, page 21

# Sanctions on Serbia

From Professor Adrian Hastings

Sir, Maastricht can wait a little. Sanctions cannot. For any genuinely committed European that should be obvious. Sanctions are now not enough. Six months ago they could have been.

What we are witnessing is not anarchy consequent upon the breakdown of a federal state but a planned campaign, nearing success, by an ethnic minority to drive a large majority out of their homes and permanently alter the map of Europe — a campaign possible only through control of the old federal army and its use with a barbarism one would have thought unimaginable in the Europe of 1992.

Once the Serbs have achieved their goal and seized enough of their neighbour's territory, they will easily agree to a ceasefire and to its supervision by the UN. Effectively that will merely consolidate what they have done, or are doing, alike in Croatia and Bosnia.

Once done, there is almost no way to undo it, but it will result in decades of conflict. Are hundreds of thousands of exiles really going to submit

to their expulsion by a mini-power? If Europe or the UN do not act now, they will be storing up an infinity of unnecessary agony.

Mr Hurd says that military intervention cannot fight the way to peace "among peoples mingled together village by village" (report, June 3). That is not the point.

If five or six of the principal towns of Bosnia together with Dubrovnik are simply protected from further attack and sustained from starvation, the underlying Serbian strategy will collapse. If on the other hand protection is not afforded, it will almost certainly succeed.

Sanctions can make no difference in so short a term. Europe will have turned its back from the robbed man on the road to Jericho, and quite unnecessarily. I cannot believe that Kohl, Mitterrand or Major really want the new Europe to begin with such sustained dishonour.

Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN HASTINGS,  
The University of Leeds,  
Department of Theology and Religious Studies,  
Leeds LS2 9JT,  
June 8.

# Water charges

From Professor S. J. Wyard

Sir, Your valuable selection of letters on the supply of water (May 30) missed one point. Not only are the privatised water companies wasting enormous quantities of water from their leaking pipes, and now trying to shift the blame for the lack of water onto the consumer, they have also, in many cases, greatly increased their charges.

I have a metered supply, for which there is a standing charge plus a charge based on consumption. Before privatisation these charges showed modest annual increases, roughly in line with inflation. Between January 1, 1989, and January 1, 1992, the standing charge (for a 1/2 inch pipe) increased from £72 p.a. to £190 p.a.; and the consumption charge increased from 23.8p per cubic metre to 55.3p. Over three years these increases average 55 per cent a year and 43 per cent a year.

Since there has been no improvement in the water supply I can only conclude that the increased revenues have gone to the shareholders, directors and employees of the privatised company.

Yours faithfully,  
S. J. WYARD,  
Dale House, Church Road,  
Sevenoaks Weald, Kent.

# Drought consequences

From Dr Robin Palmer

Sir, In criticising Zimbabwe for selling off its food surplus "in spite of clear warnings of impending shortages" (leading article, "Drought of Africa", May 29) you make far too simplistic a judgment. The Zimbabwean government was subjected to enormous pressure by the World Bank and the IMF to sell off or squeeze "unseasonable" parastatals.

Consequently, the Grain Marketing Board was obliged to sell off its huge maize stockpile and to stop building grain storage silos in outlying areas. Thus, this year, because of the drought, Zimbabwe needs to import, at enormous cost, the equivalent of what it had stockpiled.

This is sheer lunacy. Food security in Zimbabwe, as throughout southern Africa, depends on subsidising the GMB and its equivalents. To suggest, as does the current orthodoxy from Washington, that subsidies are perfectly acceptable for farmers in America and Europe but wholly inappropriate for farmers in Zimbabwe and elsewhere in Africa, is yet further lunacy. Regrettably, it is a lunacy that may well kill people.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBIN PALMER,  
3 West Common,  
Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

# Terms of consent on donor cards

From Sir Michael McNair-Wilson

Sir, If organ transplants fell last year, as your health service correspondent correctly reports (June 3), it is either because of a shortage of suitable donors, or because more next-of-kin than usual refused their consent to let organs be taken. Facts to support either hypothesis are scarce.

From the audit carried out in 1990 by Sir Sheila Gore of the Medical Research Council biostatistics unit, we know that in that year only about 63 per cent of potential organ donors actually gave their organs because 30 per cent of next-of-kin said "no" to transplantation, and in 7 per cent of cases consultants failed to ask for organs. This resulted in 800 fewer kidneys being available than should have been the case. It is a worrying situation that badly needs remedying.

Opting-out by law as a way round these difficulties, as some advocate, would be to destroy the concept of organ donation — a gift freely given which has made my own transplant much easier to accept because I know somebody wanted me to benefit from their organs.

An approach taken by some European countries, which our medical profession should be asked to copy, is not to ask the next-of-kin for their consent to take organs, but what they think the donor would have wanted. In those terms, the organ donor card becomes much more significant, particularly if it is already countersigned by the next-of-kin who will then be aware of the donor's wishes.

After all, legally the card is every bit as much a last will and testament as any other document in which we state how we wish to leave our belongings. It deserves to be taken as seriously and not made subject to the whim of next-of-kin or family as a particularly tragic moment in their lives.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL MCNAIR-WILSON,  
President, National Kidney Federation,  
Nine Elms Farmhouse,  
Buckley, Reading, Berkshire,  
June 3.

# Royal privacy

From Mr John Browne

Sir, It is undeniable that tales about the Prince and Princess of Wales are matters of interest to the public. The hundreds of millions of pounds made by the purveyors of fictional or factual sensation testify to that very great interest of the public.

But are the interests of the public necessarily in the public interest?

Our working monarchy gives us a uniquely stable form of government. It is therefore hard to see how the current attack on members of the royal family is in the public interest. Surely our government, which so cynically killed the Privacy Bill despite its overwhelming and cross-party backbench support, now have an obligation to do something to protect the people of our land; including our royal family.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BROWNE,  
c/o Coutts & Co.,  
15 Lombard Street, EC3,  
June 8.

From Mr Douglas Keay

Sir, May I, as the author of a recent biography of the Queen, raise a point about Andrew Morton's book about the Princess of Wales.

Before any of the former private secretaries and close friends and advisers of the Queen would agree to my request for interviews they had to be approached, by the *Palace*, to see whether they wished to talk to me.

Presumably, apart from their own feelings, they took soundings and were made aware of the Queen's views.

All, as it happened, agreed to interviews. One or two asked to see what I had written before my book was published, and requested not to be quoted by name on certain things. Others made no conditions. The *Palace* did not ask to see the finished manuscript, and it was not submitted.

Yours sincerely,  
DOUGLAS KEAY,  
Bargate Cottage,  
The Common, Womersley,  
Guildford, Surrey,  
June 8.

# Measure for measure

From Professor C. R. B. Joyce

Sir, Your correspondent, Dr Lamb (letter, June 6), laments the Italians' inability, like the British, to accommodate both metric and imperial weights and measures.

We Irish, well-known to be more European and better logicians, have unambiguously distinguished our two systems of labelling signposts from each other as follows: "The newer green signs are in kilometres unless otherwise stated, while the old white signs are in miles unless they are in kilometres."

As final safeguards against misunderstanding, the signposts themselves are rendered illegible, rotated through anything from 1 to 180 degrees and often removed entirely.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
C. R. B. JOYCE,  
Munsterstrasse 21,  
3010 Bern, Switzerland,  
June 6.







saves  
mess

OBITUARIES

RICHARD EURICH



Richard Eurich's graphically-observed *The Withdrawal from Dunkirk*, painted in 1941

Richard Eurich, OBE, RA, artist, died on June 6 aged 89. He was born in Bradford on March 14, 1903.

RICHARD Eurich was one of those rare war artists whose works will live, and continue to affect people, as minor masterpieces. He caught that terrible beauty of the theatre of war, distilling the awful truth that battles of human life and death often take place on beautiful days in beautiful places.

The exhibition of his war work at the Imperial War Museum last autumn, *Richard Eurich: From Dunkirk to D-Day*, enabled his peculiar strengths to be appreciated afresh. Eurich was always aware that human beings are essential to war and his account of it always has a human dimension, notwithstanding the machinery of war, exemplified by the bombers and their vapour trails, which score a clear blue sky in his *Fortresses over Southampton Water*, or by the shipping crowding the beaches in *The Withdrawal from Dunkirk*. Thus, his war paintings avoid an imperial atmosphere or that species of grandiose overstatement to which the genre is sometimes prone. A simple study like *Robin Hood's Bay in Wartime*—two fishermen standing chatting in front of a number of boats drawn up on the foreshore—is as surely a part of the experience of war as the more dramatic battle scenes.

Richard Eurich was the son of Professor Frederick William Eurich who had been professor of forensic medicine in the University of Leeds. He was educated at St George's School, Harpenden, and at Bradford Grammar School. From there he went on to Bradford School of Arts and Crafts and in 1924 progressed to the Slade School of Art in London—where to his surprise he found that his hero, Turner, was regarded with contempt. Nevertheless he won seven prizes for drawing and composition at the Slade.

His first one-man exhibition was of pencil drawings, put on with the encouragement of Eric Gill and Sir Edward Marsh at the Goupil Galleries in 1929. These drawings, both delicate and incisive, recalled the

early engravings of northern Europe in their observation of detail and in their precision. In the same year he met Christopher Wood—perhaps the only painter of his own time to have influenced Eurich in his paintings of coastal villages.

After a great deal of drawing, which provided him throughout his life with a range and competence which was quite exceptional, Eurich found his most profound theme. There are landscape artists and seascapists; Eurich was the consummate master of the seascape and the beachscape, with a wonderful memory for all the details of shifting light and strange perspective that these provide. He was always, he said, most deeply moved by the elements. In this, he was close to Turner. Oil paintings by Eurich were seen from time to time at the New English Art Club and the London Group, but it was not until 1933 that he had his first one-man

show of paintings at the Redfern Gallery. They were of Dorset harbours intimately and precisely observed in the manner by which his work was to become familiar. A second Redfern exhibition in 1935 amplified these strengths.

What gives Eurich's scenes their poetic profundity is a melancholy which is akin to that which the eighteenth century found in ruins: the fleeting human comedy of transience set against the eternity of change in the elements. Some simple title like *Bathers on the Beach* or *Cargo Boats on the Solent* can carry intimations of mortality and eternity, simultaneously real and surreal.

In 1938 he showed 35 paintings, mainly of Cornish harbours, at the Redfern. His admirers felt that a tendency to a looser handling with hints of Impressionism and the pre-Raphaelites—did not really suit his draughtsman's instincts, but this was not to amount to a permanent

change of direction. Later work showed a return to his earlier, "well-carpentered" manner.

Eurich thus came to the second world war unintentionally primed to be that curious survival, a war painter in the age of photography. When the withdrawal from Dunkirk took place he immediately realised that it was a subject which would merit epic treatment and he wrote to the War Artists' Committee: "Now the picture subject for which I have been waiting has taken place. This surely should be painted and I wonder if I should be considered for the job."

He was. After a discreet testing of his abilities, he was seconded to the Royal Navy as a war artist in 1941 and remained until the end of the war. He was, of course, not present at Dunkirk, nor at many of the scenes he recorded, but his ability to bring together remembered detail, and provided information, produced minor masterpieces which

were utterly authentic to the spirit of the scenes they represented. In the case of Dunkirk his peacetime knowledge of the locality enabled him to recreate, with considerable veracity, the topography of the place.

His *Dunkirk Beach, May 1940* was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1941 and was purchased by the Canadian government for the Canadian War Museum. The Imperial War Museum has his *The Great Convoy to North Africa*, the Maritime Museum, *Withdrawal from Dunkirk* and the Tate Gallery, *Survivors from a Torpedoed Ship*, a painting depicting two men adrift on a raft with simple, stark and poignant realism—based on a true incident. And there were other equally affecting but more complex paintings of convoys and air raids, all with that poetry of ambivalence, beauty and tragedy.

From 1949 Eurich taught at Camberwell School of Art, where he was able to talk over the unresolved issues of pre-war artistic discussion with a new generation. His own paintings reverted to a gentler poetry, critics sometimes found them too grey—perhaps the result of many days attempting to sketch on grey, salt-sprayed beaches in grey weather; but Eurich was always stirred by the sea: "the symbol of a great loneliness which I have always desired". Settled for most of his life near Southampton and the Solent, he could always find that fascinating artistic concordance of the surreal in the real, in the strange perspectives of beach and horizon dwarfing the human figures at play.

A succession of exhibitions with the Redfern Gallery was followed by several at Tooth's and later at the Fine Art Society. A retrospective was held at Bradford in 1951; he was elected a full Royal Academician in 1953. In 1963 the Fine Art Society put on a much-admired 80th birthday celebratory exhibition which recalled the high achievements of that modest contributor to the annual Royal Academy shows. Richard Eurich was appointed OBE in 1984.

He married Mavis Llewellyn Pope in 1934, by whom he had a son, deceased, and two daughters.

APPRECIATIONS

Robert Morley



IT MIGHT be thought from your obituary (June 4) that in his crowded and gregarious life Robert Morley's time was already fully taken up with his commitment to the theatre, cinema, the racetrack, books, food and many other interests. Not so—it may not be widely known, due perhaps to his "innate modesty", that, through being godfather of the autistic son of a close friend, Robert became a much valued supporter of the National Autistic Society, soliciting cheques from Arab princes, donating the royalties of two best-selling books, hosting a fund-raising dinner after the film premiere of *Too Many Chefs* and more. All this with enormous enthusiasm for his adopted cause. His unselfish support for a small charity even survived a two-day ride, crammed in a small car, to the event at Aberystwyth's Rag Day in 1975. Admittedly, this rural ride was punctuated by surprise descents on the only notable eating places to be found between Wargrave on Thames and mid-Wales, but it was part of the performance, and fun. Actors have many faces; this particular face parents of children with autism remember with gratitude.

occasion, when I think I was doing this for the fourth time, he greeted me with warmth and said in a stage whisper, "Not again! If we walk down the aisle together any more I really do think we shall have to get married." We set off down the nave as, unseen by Mr Morley, the Lord Mayor arrived behind him, a signal for the whole congregation to rise to rise to its feet. Morley looked surprised but delighted. "Oh, how sweet of them," he said. He quickly regained his composure and, beaming from side to side, we continued what became almost a regal progress towards the choir.

Clive Chapman

Michael Baron, vice president, The National Autistic Society

THE death of Robert Morley brings back memories of a number of occasions when memorial services were being held for great actors and when I, as an honorary steward of Westminster Abbey (and because I am a theatre historian), was asked to meet Mr Morley at the Great West Door and conduct him down the nave to his seat in the choir. On the most recent

Sir Robin Philipson

IN ADDITION to the many achievements of Sir Robin Philipson listed in your obituary (June 5), mention should also be made of his splendid work on the Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland. Much of what has survived in our Scottish heritage, both urban and rural, is due to his efforts. In addition to his artistic eminence, he possessed (what is rare in artists) a shrewd awareness of what is politically possible, and how to convince ministers, government departments, local authorities (not always the most

ready listeners) and the public of the merits of his arguments.

He was implacably opposed to the brutal and intrusive inner ring road plan which threatened Edinburgh in the 1960s and helped to defeat it. I frequently accompanied him (as a fellow commissioner) on site inspections. I remember trudging across Borders woodlands with him, and walking in driving rain through Glasgow streets to view a threatened building from an appropriate artistic angle. His enthusiasm and his air of authority helped to bring success to many of the commission's recommendations.

Professor Alan Thompson

Brig Michael Holroyd-Smith

MAY I add a brief note to your fine obituary (June 5) on Brigadier Michael Holroyd-Smith? He was, as you say, educated at St Paul's School, Darjeeling, until he was 12. Thereafter he spent five years at Bedstone School (now

Bedstone College) in Shropshire. He was head of school there in 1955-6, and many of the qualities he was later to display so brilliantly were already apparent.

His energy, versatility, courage, and leadership are remembered with affection and admiration by all his Bedstone contemporaries.

R. J. Rees

STEPHEN CARDEN



Graham Stephen Paul Carden, CBE, TD, died from a heart attack in Johannesburg on May 10 aged 56, while working for Cazenove & Co, the City firm of stockbrokers, of which he had been a partner for 28 years. He was born on May 14, 1935.

IN HIS 36 years with Cazenove, Stephen Carden made a major contribution to its success, both in the international sphere and in Britain. His outstanding ability and efficiency made him a central figure in the partnership, particularly in the great period of change after Big Bang, the deregulation of the City in 1986, when the partners of Cazenove & Co opted to retain their independence and remain a private partnership.

Stephen Carden spent his childhood in Essex. He distinguished himself at Harrow, after which he was commissioned into the 9th Lancashire. He joined Cazenove in 1956 and soon became involved in the development of the firm's Australian business. He became a partner in 1964 and was largely responsible for the establishment, in 1969, of a branch in Sydney, the first London stockbroker's office in Australia. With the rapid evolution of the world's securities markets in the 1970s, the firm's overseas business grew rapidly and, by the end of the decade, he had assumed responsibility for its overall control and development.

Carden had also joined the new issues team at Cazenove

in the 1970s and soon acquired the friendship and respect of many of the firm's leading corporate clients which he advised. Among companies with which he had a close and long association were Bess, Burmah, Dalgely and Unigate. He was involved in defending Consolidated Goldfields and Standard Chartered Bank from unwarranted bids and participated in the privatisation of both British Aerospace and the British Airports Authority.

Having joined, in 1956, the City of London Yeomanry, subsequently the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry, Carden served with the regiment for 18 years, becoming its commanding officer. In 1976 he was promoted to colonel, the highest rank then available to a serving Territorial Army officer, and was appointed TA adviser to GOC London District. After retiring from the TA, he worked enthusiastically for

the TAVR Association and at the time of his death was vice-president of the Greater London TAVR Association and vice-chairman of the Army Cadet Force Association. He was also Hon Colonel, 71st (Yeomanry) Signals Regiment, TA, and Joint Hon Colonel, Inns of Court & City Yeomanry, TA, and a commissioner of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Carden worked enthusiastically for the TA in London during a period of military cutbacks and his efforts contributed greatly to the healthy position in which the Territorial Army in London finds itself today.

Through contacts in Australia he had become involved with The Fairbridge Society, for which he worked tirelessly for over 30 years, as treasurer, and later as chairman. He was the principal architect of the merger of the society and the Drake Fellowship in 1987, the combined organisation becoming the London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates, of which he had been chairman since 1990.

Carden had been a keen cricketer and polo player and he enjoyed sailing, but above all was his love of fox-hunting. For many years, he spent every available weekend of the hunting season in Ireland and more recently with the Bicester and Warden Hill Hunt.

Carden was awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1968, was made a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London in 1983 and was appointed CBE in 1986.

STANLEY ASTON



Stanley Collin Aston, OBE, TD, bursar of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, from 1962 to 1978, died on May 19 aged 76. He was born on September 4, 1915.

STANLEY Aston's devotion to St Catharine's College, Cambridge, in all its aspects was immense. He saw it as his mission to continue the work of Henry John Chaytor (Master until 1946) in building up the college's strengths and triumphantly succeeded when bursar from 1962 to 1978. This was the result of dedicated hard work, tight administration, concern for college staff and buildings (the substantial 1964-67 developments affectionately known as "Aston Villa" are owed to him) and sound investment based on excellent advice.

From the City School, Lincoln—a city for which he retained a profound devotion—Aston went up in 1934 with an open scholarship to St Catharine's. His starred first in modern languages (French and Spanish) in 1938 marked him out plainly for an academic career. This was to be interrupted by distinguished war service: having enlisted as a private in the Suffolk Regiment, he saw action in Africa, Madagascar and Europe, reaching the rank of major in 1942 and eventually working in military intelligence at the War Office. After the war he served with the Territorial Army, reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel and being appointed OBE and awarded

the Territorial Decoration with two bars.

Already before the end of the war the college claimed him, electing him a fellow in 1943. From 1946 for many years he was director of studies in modern languages and later occupied a variety of college posts, being specially remembered for the ingeniously appropriate punishment he good-humouredly inflicted as a young dean.

He had been appointed to his first university post in 1946 and continued as lecturer in French until his retirement in 1982. Here, too, he rightly saw himself as a follower of Chaytor in the field of romance philology, a discipline embracing French, Provençal and Spanish, and one in which linguistic theory, and historical aspects were all one. His early scholarly publications on Provençal showed excellent qualities and he long continued his annual bibliographical surveys of this subject; as visiting

professor he twice occupied posts in the United States and gave lectures in many other foreign universities; but it is fair to say that he was distracted from this by the urge to work in related, perhaps more publicly useful, ways. Thus he was secretary (1945-50) and chairman (1951-68) of the Modern Humanities Research Association, and played a major role in promoting its activities and establishing its finances. Nothing gave him greater pleasure than his election as president of the association in 1970. From 1954 to 1978 he was secretary-general of the Fédération Internationale des Langues et Littératures Modernes, and immensely active in this, world-wide, eventually taking on responsibilities in Unesco bodies also.

Within Cambridge Aston gave vigorous service in many fields. Applying bursarial and financial board skills, he gave the University Association Football Club, as senior treasurer and president, a sound financial basis. He was honoured to be deputy lieutenant of the county, from 1959, and provincial Grand Master of its Masonic province, from 1979.

Stanley Aston was a powerful figure physically, a man of immense energy, and fierce loyalties. He was open and sociable, volatile and sometimes unguarded, but ready with a handsome apology next day if on reflection he had overstepped any mark.

He is survived by his wife, Molly, one son and two daughters.

Royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will have luncheon at Queen's College, Cambridge, at 12.10; and will visit the Shakespeare Society's hostel, Bridge's, at 2.50.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of SENSE, the National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association, will attend the launch of "The Lincolnshire Project" report at the Linn, Lincoln, at 10.30; will open the Sensory Support Centre at Clare School, Norwich, at 12.40; will open the new buildings at Banham Marshalls College at 2.15; will visit Banham Community Centre at 3.10; and will attend the TRANSIT (Transportation Expertise for the Save the Children Fund) board dinner at the headquarters of the

Birthdays today

Mr P.G. Beazley, MEP, 70; Mr Tony Britton, actor, 68; Viscount Craigavon, 48; Professor Geraint Gruffydd, director, University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, 64; Mr C.J.M. Hardie, former chairman, National Provident Institution, 54; Sir Peter Healey, chairman, Commonwealth Games Federation, 68.

Mr Derek Hunt, chairman, MFI Furniture Group, 53; Mr Roger Hurn, chairman, Smiths Industries, 54; Sir Nicholas Lloyd, editor, *Daily Express*, 50; Mr Robert McNamara, former American Secretary of Defense, 76; General Sir Geoffrey Mouson, 82; Mrs June O'Dell, deputy chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission, 63; Mr S. Gorley Punt, literary historian, 79.

Mr Charles Saatchi, director, Saatchi and Saatchi, 49; Mr Peter Sanders, chief executive, Commission for Racial Equality, 54; Sir Douglas Smith, chairman, ACAS, 60; Mr Steve Smith Eccles, jockey, 37; Vice-Admiral Sir Patrick Symonds, 59; the Right Rev Dr O.S. Tomkins, former Bishop of Bristol, 84; Colonel J.F. Williams-Wynne, former Lord Lieutenant of Gwynedd, 84.

Church news

The Rev Canon John Black, Team Rector of Brighthelm, Rural Dean of Brighton and Hove, and an Honorary Canon of Wakefield Cathedral, is to be Archdeacon of Pontefract, in the diocese of Wakefield, succeeding the Ven Kenneth Unwin who retires at the end of this month.

The Rev Michael Adams, Team Vicar, Cove Team Ministry (Guildford), to be Vicar, Christ Church, Chislehurst (Rochester).

The Rev David Beeton, Assistant Curate, Cannon Team Ministry, to be Vicar, Wednesday St Bartholomew (Lichfield).

The Rev Canon Robert Boyd, Chaplain to the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester (Gloucestershire), to be also a Chaplain to HM The Queen (in the room of the Rev Dr John Stott, Extra Chaplain).

The Rev John Brown, Priest-in-charge, Kelvedon Hauch w Navestock, to be Priest-in-charge, Fryerning, Margreting and Mountnessing, Bishop's ACORA Officer (Chesham).

The Rev Dr Peter Brown, Assistant Curate, Sparrowton w Beeston St Andrew, to be Priest-in-charge, West Winton and North Runcton w Hardwick and Setchey (Norwich).

The Rev Canon Eric Buchanan, Vicar, Higham Ferrers (Peterborough), to be also a Chaplain to HM The Queen (in the room of the Rev Canon Richard Bevan, retired).

The Rev Michael Campling, Rector, Old Alresford and Bighton, and Chaplain of diocesan retreat house and conference centre (Winchester), to be Chaplain, St Mary's Convent, East Grinstead (Chichester).

The Rev George Fisher, Curate, Conisbrough (Sheffield), to be Vicar, St Thomas, Blackpool (Blackburn).

The Rev Peter Huckle, Honorary Curate, North Walsham w Anliffham, to be Assistant Curate, Great Yarmouth (Norwich).

The Rev Paul Kybor, Carlisle Diocesan Lay Training Adviser and Priest-in-charge, St Mary, Wresay, to be also Priest-in-charge, Dalston w Curdmoak and Raughton Head (Carlisle).

The Rev David Lambert, Priest-in-charge, St Gabriel's, Cricklewood, to be Vicar, St Gabriel's and St Michael's, Cricklewood (London).

The Rev Michael Langan, Incumbent, Althorne, Cuckfield, Latchingdon and North Farnbridge, to be also Rural

June 9 ON THIS DAY 1908

The contributors to the paper were fortunate during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. No pictures and only single column headlines gave them unlimited inches in which to edify or entertain their readers; this writer was able to devote nearly 2,000 words to his theme.

THE MAYFLY AND THE TROUT

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

One June day, while casting flies on a sluggish stretch of a trout stream, I noticed a roan about a hundred yards off on the other side of the water. His head and shoulders, that is to say, were visible: the rest of him was screened by a thick fringe of reeds, over which a fishing-rod protruded. Suddenly the tip of the rod was sharply tilted; a trout was jerked out of the stream, and went hurtling through the sunshine of the meadow behind. Soon head and shoulders and the rod appeared again, and instantly another fish flurried to the grass to a gleaming curve. This, the angler coming slowly downstream, was repeated, repeated, repeated. Never had I witnessed such a weird performance. So astonishing was it, I could only stand still and watch. What wizardry could the man be using? There was no clue. With a very short line, the angler, every time he came back from basking a trout, dropped a lure upon the water just as one might have dropped a worm had the stream been flooded and discoloured; yet it could not be a worm: he was playing. Before setting a worm the trout usually waits until it is well below the surface; but in this strange case a fish leapt at the lure the moment it touched the water. Then, if one could forget some lady or another upset by the excitement of her

first rise, who had ever seen trout so unceremoniously treated? The fellow did not play them. He merely struck, hooked, and tossed them out. How thick his cast must be, or if the gut were as fine as is commonly deemed desirable, how marvelously strong! The fish he was catching were not small; they were, indeed, well above the local average. The least considerable seemed to be about half-a-pound; not a few were twice its size. Surely it was something uncanny I had chanced upon? Though bounding in trout, the stream had the reputation of being "difficult." Any angler resident in the neighbourhood thought himself skilled if a day's effort yielded him a dozen fish; yet here was a person taking splendid trout at the rate of one a minute! Awestruck, I questioned whether, as was made out in Mr. Reade's inspiring novel, through which I have been making my delighted way, the Devil were really dead. The extraordinary spectacle was a good many years ago, in school days, when theology is less impelling than curiosity; and when at length the stranger was just opposite across the stream I made a polite request to be informed as to what he was fishing with. "The Mayfly!" said he, so openly evasive in a human manner that faith in Mr. Reade was there and then restored. He invited me to go over the bridge and see his basket, a very capacious one, which I found to be packed to the brim; gave me a Mayfly; and went off to catch a train. Anglers at large will not think of his doings with unamused admiration. Some of them will severely disapprove. These are they who, after having bann'd the worm, the gentle, the creeper, and the minnow, are disposed towards bann'ing the Mayfly also. They think that all these lures, even though suited to comparatively rare occasions, are too effective. However, some reassuring thoughts on that subject have recently been presented in these columns...







# BUSINESS TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

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Provisions of £350 million may be made

## DTI inspectors to investigate Mirror launch

By Angela Mackay and Rodney Hobson

THE department of trade has appointed inspectors to investigate the £250 million flotation last year of 49 per cent of the late Robert Maxwell's newspaper empire, Mirror Group Newspapers.

Several parties, including the Serious Fraud Office, liquidators and administrators, are already trawling through the rest of the Maxwell family's private and public companies, and their pension funds. MGN, the only surviving and cash-flow positive entity in Britain, had not so far come under investigation.

MGN, publisher of the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror, The People, The Sporting Life and Scotland's Daily Record and Sunday Mail, is planning to relist on the stock exchange early next month. Before this can occur, the

company will publish its 1991 accounts, which will make provisions of about £350 million for cash syphoned out of the pensions fund and unauthorised loans to the private Maxwell companies. All these funds were allegedly drained out of the company after the flotation in May last year.

What the inspectors, John Laughton Thomas QC and Raymond Turner, a chartered accountant of Neville Russell, will be looking at under section 432(2) of the Companies Act 1985 is whether the flotation involved fraud or deception on the part of the company or its advisers. The inspectors have also been appointed under section 442, where they can investigate company ownership and shadow directorships.

MGN's flotation was one of the few big corporate deals

last year. The merchant banks, stockbrokers, accountants and solicitors involved will all be called as witnesses by the inspectors along with MGN executives including Ian Maxwell, son of Robert Maxwell. They will be questioned on their due diligence in bringing the company to the market and on the preparation of the prospectus which promised that MGN was "on arm's length terms" from the rest of the Maxwell empire.

Samuel Montagu, Midland's merchant bank and the prime adviser to the company, said they will be co-operating fully with the inspectors. Likewise, Salomon Brothers, the underwriter to the overseas placing and Smith New Court, the stockbroker to the issue, said they would be co-operating with the enquiry.

MGN's flotation was considered no more than a lukewarm success at the time. Soon after, however, the shares started a steady decline until they languished at almost half the listing price of 125p.

MGN's shares were suspended at 125p after news of Mr Maxwell's death. The controlling 51 per cent of the shares retained by RM Holdings, which was owned by Headington Investments, a private Maxwell company.

The MGN prospectus clearly stated that 56 per cent of MGN's pension funds were managed by Maxwell companies.

Of the two inspectors, Mr Turner has already acted as a DTI inspector enquiring into BOM Holdings, a retailer and property developer that went into liquidation in 1990. He criticised the stock exchange for approving and later withdrawing BOM's £15.7 million rights issue circular.

Mr Thomas was called to the bar at Gray's Inn in November 1969 and was appointed a QC in 1984. He specialises in commercial and international law, operating from chambers in Essex Court in the Temple in London, and is a recorder on the West Country Circuit.

## Consumers still keen to cut debts

By Colin Narbrough  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative election victory failed to lift consumer confidence enough to produce the net increase in borrowing City forecasters had expected in April, official credit figures showed yesterday.

Faced with rising unemployment and slowing wage growth, consumers continued to whittle away at the £30 billion mountain of debt left over from the borrowing binge of the Eighties. New credit advanced by finance houses, building societies and on credit cards in April rose to £4.11 billion, after seasonal adjustment, from £3.96 billion in March.

But the net figure for April, which gives the change in the amount of credit outstanding, showed a fall of £56 million against a drop of £71 million in March. The repayment trend has been evident since the autumn. Ian Shepherdson, economist at

Midland Montagu, said: "The trend is still clearly towards repayment." He said debt repayment by the unemployed and heavily indebted more than outweighed the rise in gross credit generated by people with jobs and rising real incomes.

Economists fear that unless a greater readiness to take up more credit emerges soon, consumer spending will not be the engine of recovery the government expects. The City hopes last month's half-point cut in base rate will boost consumer confidence.

The breakdown of the April figures revealed that borrowing on credit cards picked up to £2.68 billion from £2.59 billion in March. The increase probably stemmed from the 0.8 per cent rise in retail sales in April, but credit card borrowing remained below the level of April 1991.

Comment, page 21



## Creditors of BCCI keep up the battle

By Neil Bennett  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

DEPOSITORS in the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International demanded higher compensation from the government of Abu Dhabi at a High Court hearing in London yesterday despite the government's insistence its terms are final.

Touche Ross, BCCI's liquidator, is asking the court to approve a \$3 billion compensation plan negotiated with the Abu Dhabi authorities. BCCI's 77 per cent shareholder. But the creditors denounced the scheme and said it falls "far short" of a proper figure.

Last week BCCI's creditors' committee voted seven to one against the scheme, despite warnings from Michael Crystal QC, who represents Touche Ross, that a rejection could lead to a decade of litigation and leave little or nothing for creditors. If the scheme is rejected, Touche plans to sue the Abu Dhabi government to redeem the promissory notes and letters of comfort.

The proposed scheme will create a fund to compensate BCCI's 800,000 worldwide depositors equally. The Abu Dhabi government has agreed to inject \$1.7 billion into the fund and waive its claims on \$2 billion held by ICI. BCCI's sister company. In return the liquidators have agreed to write off promissory notes worth \$3.8 billion from the Abu Dhabi government, and not to take any other legal action against it.

Depositors are owed an estimated \$10 billion and the scheme proposes to raise compensation for depositors from less than 10 per cent to between 30 and 40 per cent. The scheme must be approved by courts in London, Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands, and by an estimated 70 per cent of depositors to succeed.

A statement from Tony Scott, the secretary of the BCCI Depositors Protection Association, said creditors had been presented with a "fait accompli" by Touche, and the settlement was "simply not good enough."

Despite this opposition Touche is asking for the court to approve the scheme. Mr Crystal said creditors had not come up with any viable alternative.

The case is expected to last until Wednesday.

Comment, page 21

## Call for Guerin to get long sentence

By Angela Mackay

US FEDERAL prosecutors have called for James Guerin, the former deputy chairman of Ferranti International, to be given a "lengthy" prison sentence for the "mind-boggling" criminal network he established and milked for several years.

Guerin, who pleaded guilty to eight counts of fraud and arms smuggling, will be sentenced on his 62nd birthday in a Pennsylvania federal court this evening. He is asking for clemency because he has "already been punished and humiliated and is truly sorry."

Assistant US attorneys Robert Goldman and Nicholas Harbist, however, are urging the sentencing judge, Louis Bechtle, to give Guerin a long sentence. They said his "unparalleled" crimes "imperilled the national security and defrauded thousands of trusting investors in the international marketplace."

They said Guerin also obstructed justice when he ordered the destruction of records related to arms smuggling to South Africa and bribed a Pakistani general with \$250,000 to vouch for a fake missile contract. After Guerin agreed to plead guilty and co-operate with the authorities, he was still deceptive, according to the prosecutors.

He lied about money in his Swiss bank accounts and about the source of payments to employees. He also gave a bogus account of how illegal arms sales were constructed.

The prosecutors also say Guerin stole \$18 million from himself using the corporate funds of his company, International Signal & Control, which merged with Ferranti International in 1987, as his "personal treasury."

Guerin has countered with testimonies from his wife, his five children, community leaders and Admiral Bobby Ray Inman who said Guerin displayed patriotism when he worked covertly for the CIA in the 1970s.

Guerin resigned from the board of Ferranti in May 1989, four months before the defence and electronics group found a £215 million hole in its assets.

The company was forced to sell £500 million of assets and refinance its debt.

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## Nadir has 46 charges dismissed

THE bulk of the theft charges brought against Asil Nadir (above, yesterday), the former chairman of Polly Peck International, the collapsed fresh fruit, hotels and electronics group, were struck out by a judge.

Mr Justice Tucker, the judge assigned to Mr Nadir's pending trial scheduled for next March, dismissed 46 charges after hearing the preliminary legal arguments on the issue of dishonest intent.

The ruling, which was given at Birmingham Crown Court, leaves Mr Nadir facing 20 counts of theft and three counts of false accounting.

His solicitor said later: "Mr Nadir is delighted that the Crown Court has accepted the defence submissions in full and has already dismissed 46 charges, to the value of some £120 million, brought against him by the Serious Fraud Office."

### TODAY IN BUSINESS

#### FLASH POINT



Sir Trevor Holdworth earns £185,000 as the part-time chairman of National Power. Does the electricity industry give value for money? Page 21

#### TRUCK ON

Iran and Libya hold the key to the survival of AWD, the failed lorry-builder that has shed another 502 jobs through a lack of orders Page 21

#### SUMMER SALE

## RTZ

RTZ will incur a loss of £30 million from the sale of its interest in Rio Algom to Canadian investors for £118 million Page 18; Tempus page 20

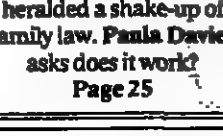
#### NEW BOY

Ian Agnew will earn more than £650,000 as director of Wellington Underwriting Holdings Page 21

#### LAW TIMES

The Children Act heralded a shake-up of family law. Paula Davies asks does it work? Page 25

#### FAMILY MATTERS



### THE POUND

US dollar 1.8340 (+0.0005)  
German mark 2.9170 (+0.0021)  
Exchange index 92.6 (+0.1)  
Bank of England official base rate 4.00%

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2057.3 (-20.1)  
FT-SE 100 2845.8 (-22.7)  
New York Dow Jones 3393.77 (-4.92)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17655.06 (-134.98)

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10%  
3-month interbank 10.95%  
3-month eligible bills 9.75-9.95%  
US: Prime Rate 6.75%  
Federal Funds 3.75%  
3-month Treasury Bills 3.69-3.67%  
30-year bonds 10.14-10.11%

### CURRENCIES

London: £1 = \$1.8340  
New York: £1 = \$1.8347  
Paris: £1 = FF2.8851  
Swiss: £1 = Sfr2.2035  
Euro: £1 = Ecu1.3663  
Yen: £1 = Yen127.08  
Dollar: £1 = \$1.8340  
Euro: £1 = Ecu1.3663  
Yen: £1 = Yen127.08  
Dollar: £1 = \$1.8340

### GOLD

London: Gold 338.50 pm-338.70  
New York: Gold 338.50 pm-338.70  
Gold 338.50 pm-338.70  
Gold 338.50 pm-338.70

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jun) \$21.30 bbl (\$21.50)  
Brent (Jul) \$21.30 bbl (\$21.50)  
Brent (Aug) \$21.30 bbl (\$21.50)

### RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.8 Apr (1987=100)  
\* Denotes midday trading price

## Property slump dents BAA

By Michael Tate, City Editor

PROFITS of BAA, the company that runs Britain's principal airports, tumbled from £247.3 million to £192 million in the year ended March after some hefty provisions in respect of falling property values and a heavy redundancy programme.

The group's property portfolio has been written down by £55 million which, together with the £36 million redundancy provision, made a big dent in little-changed operating profits of £283 million. BAA accompanied the results with news that it plans to spend £85 million on doubling the size of its retail operations over the next four

years. This would give it one billion square feet of retail space by 1996.

Sir John Egan, chief executive, added that by 1993-94 the group would be earning more from retail than it makes from charging airlines for using its airports.

Group earnings per share fell by 19 per cent to 30.6p, but this is still enough to cover the increased dividend more than twice. Shareholders receive an 8.75p final payment, giving them 14.5p for the year, a rise of 11.5 per cent.

The number of passengers remained flat, but the first two months of the current year have shown a return to

growth. The group expects annual growth "in the region of 5-8 per cent" this year.

Sir John said that less than a third of passengers currently shop at airports, leaving enormous opportunities for retailing. He said that Bally Shoes' Heathrow shop will turn over £3 million this year, selling more per square foot than any other shoe shop in Britain.

However, BAA passengers spent almost 10 per cent more in the past twelve months than in the previous year, at a time when there was a downturn in the high street.

Tempus, page 20

## Drums beat as Liberty girds for battle

By Jon Ashworth

IN 1879, a handful of British soldiers fought off the Zulus at Rorke's Drift in one of the most courageous defences in military history. Four years earlier, Sir Arthur Liberty opened his first London shop at 218a Regent Street.

Now, Sir Arthur's descendants are squaring up for a battle which, in business terms, makes Rorke's Drift look like a minor skirmish. And it is no small irony that the aggressor, Brian Myerson, hails from the same corner of Africa as the Zulu hordes before him.

Liberty, which has branched out from its Regent Street base to become a general fashion retailer and wholesaler, was muddling along in its own quiet way until Mr Myerson appeared on the brow of the hill last October. One plunge of the assegai left his Concerto Capital trading company with 15 per cent of Liberty. In February, the assegai stabbed again. Mr Myerson wanted a

new chief executive. He wanted money to lift the company out of its "pedestrian" performance. He wanted a say in how Liberty was run.

Now, with the Stewart-Liberty family firmly encamped behind a wall of advisers, Mr Myerson and his warriors are massing for the attack. On June 26, he will confront his foes at an extraordinary general meeting at Liberty's flagship London store.

Liberty's 800 shareholders are being asked to vote on changes to the company's share structure, which is presently split into voting and non-voting shares. Mr Myerson wants one structure giving votes for all. Liberty says the proposals would make the whole system more complicated.

It says as much in a letter to shareholders this week which urges them to vote against Mr Myerson. His proposals, says Liberty, will not enhance the marketability of the shares. Liberty shares have "substantially outper-

formed" share indices since Harry Webber was appointed chairman in 1984. Earnings per share and dividends have increased by an average of 20 per cent per year in the same period. Mr Myerson's proposals are "muddled and ill-conceived."

Mr Myerson replied yesterday with a volley of his own. The shares had gone up since he came on board. Liberty's venture into America ended in disaster last year with the closure of three out of four stores. The company's sole non-executive director has held his post for 22 years and is a family relative.

"They have set out to fudge the issue by trying to create the image that we don't know what we're talking about," said Mr Myerson, who plans to respond with a letter of his own.

Liberty remained unrepentant. "He does seem to change his game plan as the mood takes him," says John Pugh, finance director. "We must take a long term view." The drums are beating.



Guerin: sentence today

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# RTZ suffers £30m loss on disposal

By COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

RTZ is selling Rio Algom, its 51.6 per cent Canadian subsidiary, for a net £118 million in a deal on which it will suffer an extraordinary £30 million loss.

Analysts are not totally surprised that Rio Algom is being sold. The subsidiary has suffered on the profits front from loss-making tin operations (now sold), and low prices for its uranium, copper, molybdenum, potash and coal output.

Rio Algom's net profit contribution to RTZ in the year ended December was £11 million against a £19 million profits contribution in 1990.

The exit from Rio Algom leaves RTZ clear to concentrate all its North American interests through the 100 per cent-owned and North American-based Kennecott subsidiary.

The formal text of the sale notice speaks of avoiding "the

potential for a conflict of interest". The shares are being sold to mainly Canadian institutional investors at C\$16.10 (£7.60) a share, payable in three tranches: C\$5.40 on June 25, C\$5.40 in June 1993, and a final C\$5.30 on June 24, 1994.

Rio Algom was formed in 1960 and until 1969 remained the group's principal Canadian mining interest.

RTZ's international focus changed in 1989 when it bought BP Minerals for £2.26 billion, since when a potential for conflict of interest has existed.

RTZ's carrying value of the Rio Algom stake is £148 million, which will result in an extraordinary loss of £30 million. RTZ said the sale proceeds will be used for general corporate purposes.

Tempos, page 20

## Betterware turns in 75 per cent increase

By JON ASHWORTH

SELLING goods by catalogue has paid off handsomely for Betterware, the direct home shopping retailer, which has produced a 75 per cent leap in pre-tax profits.

Pre-tax profits in the year to end-February soared to £7 million (£4 million) on turnover up 44 per cent at £41.7 million. There was an exceptional charge of £322,000 (£90,000). A final dividend of 2.21p (1.65p) a share makes 3.06p (2.33p) for the year.

Betterware, Britain's second biggest direct home shopping retailer, is taking its formula to the Continent. It moved into France in September and is looking at Germany, Italy and Spain. The group is investing £9 million in a new distribution centre in the West Midlands.

Steps to expand will be monitored by Walter Goldsmith, non-executive chairman, who was appointed in December 1990 to add clout to the drive into Europe.



Sending overseas: Walter Goldsmith of Betterware

## Milken 'planning return to Wall St'

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

US government prosecutors believe that Michael Milken, the jailed junk-bond king, plans to return to corporate life when he leaves prison.

Milken, aged 45, who has completed 15 months of a ten-year sentence for securities fraud, gave evidence for the prosecution against Alan Rosensthal, his friend and former colleague, who was charged with 11 counts of conspiring with Milken on a tax-fraud and embezzlement scheme.

But prosecutors say Milken's testimony was conflicting and never offered any evidence that directly incriminated Mr Rosensthal.

This week's testimony was due to count in Milken's favour for a reduction in sentence. But lawyers close to the case doubted his performance would count for much. They believe he wishes to return to corporate life and prefers two more years in jail to incriminating a friend.

## BUSINESS ROUND-UP

### Vallance expects lower growth rates for BT

PRICE restraint and increased competition will prevent British Telecom from returning to the high growth rates of the 1980s, Iain Vallance, chairman, says in the annual report. He says the price formula under which BT can only increase its prices by five points less than inflation "is particularly tough at a time when inflation has been declining".

Prices and competition were two reasons why BT's financial performance was depressed in the year to March. Charges for main services were reduced by 1 per cent on average, while inflation ran at 5.8 per cent. Mr Vallance also blames recession for putting pressure on revenue growth. He says the company continued, however, to improve the quality of service. He confirms that, as part of a cost-cutting campaign, 24,000 jobs will go in the current year, adding: "We are determined that the job reduction scheme should be voluntary."

### Pledges for Williams

WILLIAMS US Holdings, the industrial conglomerate, said its Williams US Holdings subsidiary has pledged from American investors to subscribe for \$175 million of guaranteed senior notes with maturities ranging from 10 to 20 years. The notes, guaranteed by Williams, will be issued by the subsidiary and will consist of four tranches with an average life of 13.2 years, priced at an average fixed rate of 8.6 per cent.

### Japan trust unveiled

EDINBURGH Fund Managers (EFM) is to launch Britain's first general Japanese investment trust in over a decade. The trust, which is expected to be valued at £15-20 million, will be launched through a placing and intermediaries offer by James Capel. First dealing is expected to be on June 30. Iain Watt, the managing director of EFM, said EFM feels the "economic cycle is turning (and) the stock market is poised for recovery".

### Gresham dips

GRESHAM Industries, a South African wholesale distribution group with shares quoted in London, has reported pre-tax profits of 9.4 million rand (£1.8 million) for the thirteen months to end-April. On a 12-month basis the profits were R8.7 million against R9.3 million previously. No final dividend is being paid, due to a sharp deterioration in trading conditions in the second half, leaving the payout at 1.5p, compared with 3p previously.

### Rugby Group expands

RUGBY Group, the building materials supplier, is paying £15.3 million for various businesses of Ward Group, which was placed in administration last month. Rugby is buying Ward's building and components division in North Yorkshire, Abbeal, a glass processor and insulated glazing maker, Multicom, a maker and supplier of steel products in Colmar, France, and three other French companies marketing Atlas products in Germany and France.

### GWR rockets 680%

GWR Group, the independent radio contractor, saw pre-tax profits rocket 680 per cent to £254,000 (£52,500) in the six months to end-March. There is an interim dividend of 3p (1p). Earnings per share rose to 5.7p (0.7p). National advertising rose 15 per cent, reflecting improved listening figures and a more positive trading environment. Local advertising was up 12 per cent. Stations at Reading, Swindon and Bristol made particularly strong progress.

### Protean strengthens

PROTEAN, the laboratory equipment supplier and water purification specialist, lifted pre-tax profits 55 per cent to £2 million in the year to end-March. Turnover climbed 38 per cent to £22.7 million. A final dividend of 2.15p (1.9p) per share makes 2.75p (2.5p) for the year. Protean strengthened its presence in France with the purchase of Aquadem, a Paris company, in December. In February, it paid £4.94 million for Carbolite, a maker of laboratory furnaces.

### Acal slips to £2.8m

A SHARP downturn in sales margins in the UK, France and Italy saw pre-tax profits at Acal, an electronics and industrial controls distributor, slip to £2.8 million (£4.3 million) in the year to end-March. Sales volume was virtually unchanged at £58.5 million (£59.7 million). A final dividend of 3.9p (3.6p) a share makes 5.85p (5.4p) for the year. Acal opened an office in New York last year and is due to open one in Singapore this year.

### Firms seek Euro links at trade fair

By PHILIP FANGALOS

A NUMBER of British companies are looking to boost trade and co-operation with their European Community and eastern European counterparts by attending the latest European international trade fair in northern Greece this month.

The fair, in Thessaloniki on June 22 and 23, is aimed at small and medium-sized companies. Co-operation with European firms can be in the form of trade agreements, joint ventures, cross-distribution agreements, technological transfers or sharing research and development.

Already, more than 30 British companies, including several consultancies, have confirmed their participation in the now biannual event, while a similar number have expressed interest. British firms have shown the greatest interest among Western European nations, ahead of Germany.

About 400 Eastern European companies have so far confirmed their participation. A further 200 have shown an interest in contacting foreign counterparts in order to start business with them or form commercial links.

More than 300 Greek firms will attend, with the total number of international companies at in the two-day event expected to top 1,000.

### Japanese output may 'rebound'

FROM REUTER IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S economic adjustment is expected to last for the time being, but production may rebound during or after the summer, the Bank of Japan (BoJ) said in a report.

"If inventory adjustment proceeds steadily, chances are that production may rebound during or after the summer," the BoJ said in its annual review of monetary and economic developments for the fiscal year ended last March.

The central bank also said the currently low growth in money supply does not seem to be hindering corporate activity or Japan's overall economic growth.

The report said Japan's inventory levels are still relatively high, and this in turn will encourage companies to keep reducing stocks and cut back production. But there are also forces that could lead the economy to bottom out, such as lower interest rates and increased government spending.

Employment growth is stable and consumer spending will grow steadily, while housing investment apparently has started to recover.

The report also said discount rate cuts over the past few months were aimed at helping ensure a smooth transition from the period of very high economic growth.

The following advertisement has been approved by Cragnotti & Partners Capital Investment (UK) Limited, a member of the Securities and Futures Authority.

The advertisement appears on a number of record only

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(Incorporated with Limited Liability in the Province of Ontario, Canada)

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8,182,830 Class B Shares

The above securities, representing 28.4% of the share capital and 52.0% of the voting rights attached thereto, have been acquired

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**CRAGNOTTI & PARTNERS CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

LONDON MILAN PARIS ROME LUGANO SAO PAULO

June 1991

The advertisement appears on a number of record only

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72% of the share capital of this Brazilian manufacturer of powdered detergent products has been acquired

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July 1991

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**MONTEDISON S.p.A.**  
has sold its 50% share in

**JA/MONT HOLDINGS N.V.**  
to

**RAYNE HOLDINGS INC.**  
a company controlled by Cragnotti & Partners Capital Investment

JA/Mont Holdings N.V. is a joint venture between James River Corporation of Virginia U.S.A., Rayne Holdings Inc. and Oy Nokia A.B. of Finland.

In this transaction, Montedison S.p.A. was advised by

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The advertisement appears on a number of record only

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51% of the voting shares of the above company has been acquired

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**CRAGNOTTI & PARTNERS CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

MILAN LONDON PARIS ROME LUGANO SAO PAULO

January 1992

The advertisement appears on a number of record only

**CICA, Brazil.**

67% of the share capital of the above company has been acquired

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**CRAGNOTTI & PARTNERS CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

MILAN LONDON PARIS ROME LUGANO SAO PAULO

1 February 1992

The advertisement appears on a number of record only

**FEDITAL S.p.A.**

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**CRAGNOTTI & PARTNERS CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

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2 February 1992

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STATEMENT BY SERGIO CRAGNOTTI, FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN OF CRAGNOTTI & PARTNERS CAPITAL INVESTMENT, MADE AT THE LAUNCH OF THE GROUP IN JUNE 1991

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# Heseltine urges exporters to lift performance

By Rodney Hobson

MICHAEL Heseltine, the trade secretary, warned Britain's exporters not to expect the government to solve all their problems in overseas markets.

Mr Heseltine ruled out any moves to increase support for government measures such as improving export credits. He said: "It is no use looking for one or two quick-fix headline-grabbing measures. There are none. You are more likely to see trade increase if

you are competitive than if you are offered better credit services."

Mr Heseltine admitted that help from the British Overseas Trade Board was still failing to reach the majority of British firms. While users of the services are pleased with the helpfulness of BOTB staff, the advice and information services scored lower marks for the value of help provided and the speed of service.

Mr Heseltine said: "Whatever we provide, a number of companies are not going to be satisfied. These things are about human beings in difficult situations. I get a lot of praise just as I have with the diplomatic service that has been transformed over the past ten years."

"If businesses can't sell a product they may complain about the service but it may mean that the product is not worth selling."

The BOTB is targeting 54 countries around the world for an export push as British industry struggles out of recession. Despite having a budget of only £173 million in the financial year that ended in March, the board hopes to build on the record exports of £105 billion achieved by Britain in that period.

The drive to increase exports is seen as vital at a time when British markets are becoming vulnerable to continental firms in the single European market. Attempts to liberalise trade under the GATT talks could also bring competitive imports into Britain, Mr Heseltine said.

Mr Heseltine was launching the BOTB's annual report and forward plan. According to the report, staff costs and overheads swallowed up £123 million of the BOTB's budget.

The remaining £50 million was spent on trade fairs and other promotions, although

this figure was partly offset by £18.5 million in receipts. The net spend was £31.1 million, down from £36.7 million in the previous year. The fall was due to a decline in the use of export marketing research.

Despite a budget of less than £1 million per target nation, the BOTB will be promoting British businesses in Western Europe, North America, Japan and the Asian Pacific rim.

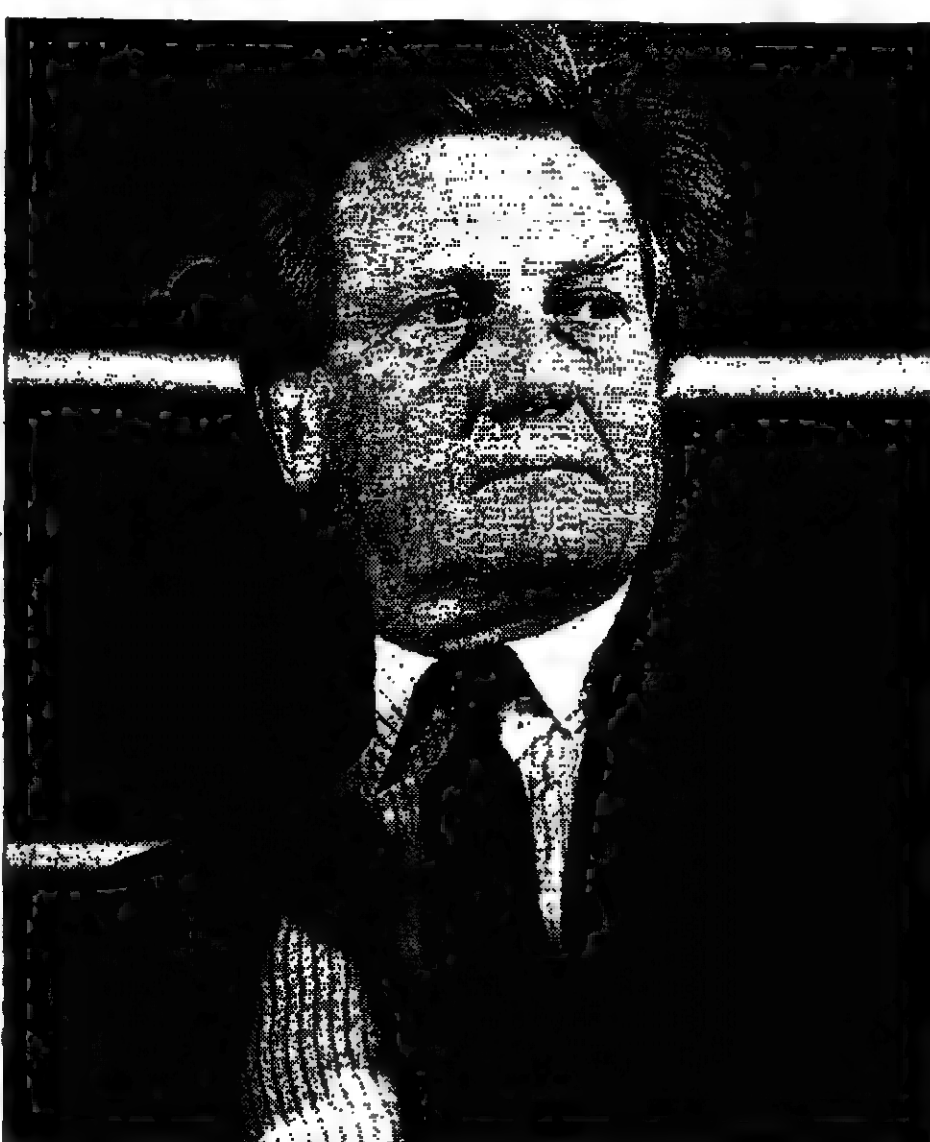
Its main promotion in 1991-2, Spotlight Spain, helped to bring a 15 per cent increase in British exports to that country.

The Middle East is also witnessing strong growth for British exporters, with sales up 30 per cent to Iran, Syria and Morocco and 20 per cent to Turkey. Even war-torn Lebanon saw a 60 per cent increase in purchases from Britain.

Mr Heseltine said the Danish "no" vote on the Maastricht Treaty would not halt trade harmonisation. He added: "Europe has been caught up in controversy lately but what is not controversial is the single European market. It is important to realise the pace at which it is evolving."

"It is of fundamental importance that British businesses should not get a false message from the Danish vote. What has been put in place is the single market. Maastricht is about what should be added on. That message is not being misunderstood on the Continent and it is important that it is not misunderstood here."

Mr Heseltine claimed Britain was selling goods on quality but he warned: "There is already evidence that we are overpaying ourselves in comparison with our principal competitors. Unfortunately a price will be paid in terms of lost jobs and lost opportunities."



No quick fixes: Michael Heseltine rules out increasing government support

## Midland bidder lent \$787m

# HSBC is big O&Y creditor

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

THE Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, which today is seeking shareholder permission to proceed with its £3.9 billion bid for the Midland, has said it is one of Olympia & York's largest creditors with an exposure of US\$787 million.

The bank faces a loss of more than \$250 million on the loan even though it is secured on two of the Canadian property developers' largest equity holdings.

Hongkong Bank confirmed that \$750 million of its lending is part of the \$2.5 billion "jumbo" facility to O&Y. This has a first charge

on the group's 71 per cent stake in Gulf Canada, the Canadian energy group, and 82 per cent of the shares in Abitibi-Price, the Canadian forestry products company.

Hongkong Bank said its exposure to Canary Wharf is only \$9 million, all fully secured. The bank's main O&Y loan was made by the foreign currency unit in Singapore, which is used as a booking centre for many of the group's largest exposures. The Hongkong Bank of Canada, the country's largest foreign-owned bank, is unaffected.

Hongkong Bank would make a substantial loss on its loans if it and the other banks sold the shares of the two companies immediately. The combined value of the stakes is \$1.65 billion, \$850 million less than the facility. Hongkong Bank's share of the loss would be \$258 million, even assuming it could sell at market price. The loan is also guaranteed by O&Y.

The bank said it would make a provision for any fall in the value of the security in its figures this year as normal. As a result the bank's profits for the first half are likely to fall by up to £300 million.

# Underwriter at Lloyd's paid over £650,000

By Jonathan Prynn

IAN Agnew, one of the leading marine underwriters at Lloyd's, was paid more than £650,000 in salary, bonuses and profit commission last year, the accounts of a company where he is director have disclosed.

Mr Agnew's earnings make him one of the highest paid underwriters at Lloyd's, but the disclosure comes at an unfortunate time for the market, which continues to be rocked by the huge losses affecting names.

The 1991 accounts of Wellington Underwriting Holdings show that Mr Agnew was its highest paid director, with earnings of £656,862. Of that, only £172,203 relates to his salary and a 5 per cent discretionary bonus paid by syndicate 406, of which he is the lead underwriter. A further £244,659 relates to profit commission paid to him by IC Agnew Underwriting, which was acquired by Wellington for £3.1 million in January. Further profit commission payments will be paid over the next two years.

The remaining £240,000 represents part of a loyalty bonus that was negotiated by Mr Agnew when he sold his company to Wellington. The loyalty bonus is included in the Wellington accounts as part of a £2.16 million provision on the net assets of IC Agnew. The loyalty bonus is payable over a period up to December 31, 1995.

Mr Agnew was formerly the underwriter for syndicate 672, one of the most profitable syndicates at Lloyd's in 1989, when the vast majority lost money. For the 1989 year of account it made a 12 per cent profit against an expected 17 per cent loss for the market. In 1989 its membership comprised 21.5 per cent working names, well above the market average. Syndicate 672 was merged into syndicate 406, a large, heavily loss-making marine syndicate, on January 1, and Mr Agnew was appointed underwriter in October 1990.

The accounts show that Wellington Underwriting Holdings made a pre-tax profit of £1.5 million for the 15 months to end-December, compared with £4 million for the year to end-September 1990. The pay of John Prentice, the chairman who retired last month, rose by 32 per cent to £157,866.

Mr Agnew's sources are playing down weekend reports that outside interests may offer to put new money into Lloyd's and turn the market into a limited liability company. Similar rumours have circulated at Lloyd's before.

# Kidnap fears grow in US

From Philip Robinson in New York

FEARS over executive safety are growing again in America following the disappearance of an Exxon executive more than a month ago and a recent gun-point kidnap of a California computer company boss.

Kroll Associates, the New York crisis and security management concern, says the number of enquiries for its services has risen sharply in recent weeks. And Michael Hershman, president of the Fairfax Group, which plans security strategies for American and international companies, said: "It is always the case when there has been a violent kidnapping — our phones are ringing off the hook and then it calms down until the next incident."

Two have sparked off a new wave of executive stress. The first was the disappearance of Sidney Reso, the man in charge of Exxon's exploration outside the United States, who had been with the company for 35 years. He left his \$680,000 house at 7:30 am on April 29 for a 15-minute drive to Exxon's headquarters. But his wife found the car at the top of their secluded driveway with the engine idling, the doors closed and her husband's overcoat and briefcase inside.

A group calling itself the Rainbow Warriors told the company to have "lots of money ready". But the callers provided no proof they had Mr Reso. The case is being treated as a missing person.

Some days later Charles Geschke, president of the computer group Adobe Systems, was taken at gunpoint from the group's headquarters in Hollister, California. He was freed after an FBI team caught the kidnappers and took back \$650,000 in ransom money.

Security experts say kidnapping is rarely successful in America because the law makes it a crime not to report a snatch to the FBI. That alone rules out attempts by amateurs to negotiate a settlement quietly.

South America, the Philippines, Spain and Italy are among the world's top danger zones. In 1973 Exxon paid one of the highest ransoms on record, \$14.2 million in \$100 bills for the return of Victor Samuelson after he was abducted by Marxist guerrillas in Argentina.

John Horn, Kroll's managing director in New York responsible for crisis management and corporate security practices, says executives often fail to pick up the earliest signs of danger.

"Depending on the kind of crime being planned, most will carry out surveillance. Unusual telephone calls to home or office from people seeking information about habits and routine of the person they have selected as their target should not be ignored," he said.

# Receivers aim to conclude contracts with Libya and Iran to save AWD

By Ross Tiesman, Industrial Correspondent

RECEIVERS at AWD, the failed lorry-builder, will restart talks with Libya and Iran in an effort to conclude contracts worth up to £170 million that could save the business.

To demonstrate their commitment and realise cash, the receivers will restart limited production at the AWD plant in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, tomorrow.

However, completion of more than 80 vehicles under construction is expected to provide the reduced workforce of 183 with only eight weeks work. The other 502 workers were declared redundant yesterday by Tony Thompson and Roger Oldfield, administrative receivers of KPMG Peat Marwick.

Doug Lawrence, who led discussions with the receivers for members of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said the redundancies were a sad blow.

Production workers had taken a pay cut and an early holiday in an effort to ease the company's cash outflow until the new contracts were concluded, and managers and owners had done all they could, he said.

AWD was placed in administration by David Brown, its owner and chairman, last week. Mr Brown bought the company, which previously built lorries under the Bedford



In administration: David Brown of AWD

ford marque, from General Motors of America in 1987. Mr Brown's other businesses, including Arrix, the dump truck maker, are unaffected by the receivership.

Mr Thompson said the receivers were already in contact with "a substantial number of concerns" who have expressed an interest in acquiring the business. "Contracts in prospect both in the UK and overseas are being vigorously pursued," he said.

Some industry observers believe that a purchase by a Japanese lorry builder holds out the best hope of rescue for AWD. There is already sub-

stantial surplus lorry manufacturing capacity in Europe, and sales in the British market, are especially weak, running at less than half their level of two years ago.

Far Eastern manufacturers have made inroads into third world markets, which AWD has targeted in recent years, but have scored only limited success in Europe.

General Motors began building trucks in Luton, Bedfordshire, in 1931. The Dunstable plant, opened on a 97-acre site 40 years ago. When General Motors pulled out of lorry manufacture in Europe in 1987, and sold the

business to Mr Brown for £20 million, the plant was losing £500,000 a week.

Mr Brown's hopes of winning a key order from the defence ministry were dashed when a rival vehicle built by Leyland DAF was chosen. However, AWD found its niche in building especially robust vehicles for use in developing countries, and servicing the local authority market in Britain.

Last year, the company built more than 3,000 lorries. However, only 22 were completed in January, and in February output was halted as negotiations continued over two key export orders.

Imposition of limited sanctions, affecting airlinks, sales of military equipment and technical assistance, have stymied efforts to sign a contract, worth up to £100 million to supply trucks for Libya. The company is also believed to be awaiting letters of credit to underpin the sale of lorries in kit form for assembly in Iran, a deal worth a further £70 million.

Mr Lawrence, of the AEEU, said that if the orders were confirmed, the company would be able to re-employ many of the redundant workers. The trade unions would lobby in an effort to ensure government did not impede the receivers' efforts to secure the contracts, he said.

Freeing oil prices is a key demand of the International

Monetary Fund before it unlocks a promised \$24 billion in aid to Russia and other ex-Soviet states.

The government raised oil prices about fivefold last month as a preliminary to lifting all price controls. But Mr Yeltsin has come under domestic political pressure to hold off taking the final step, which had been expected within three months.

"Boris Yeltsin stressed that after the first price hike energy prices would not be raised before the end of the year," Tass said. (Reuters)

place up to 5 per cent of its issued capital with South African investors.

Mining analysts in London concede that their numbers have fallen in recent years, and blame the fall in the gold price for the large number of empty desks.

Presentations in London from American, Australian and South African mining companies remain well attended — at times by almost 200 people — and London followers are anxious for updates on mining ventures and projects from around the world. But the majority of today's followers of mining companies come from consultancies and other investment-related concerns, rather than from stockbroking firms.

It is likely that Cluff will

# Mining chief mourns UK decline

By Colin Campbell, Mining Correspondent

LONDON is fast losing, if it has not already lost, its traditional place as the world's leading research and fund-raising centre for precious and base metal mining ventures.

Dedicated mining analysts within individual London stockbroking firms, whose numbers were once sufficient to field a firm's rugby team, have fallen faster than autumn leaves. The number of mining shares that can be taken as seriously significant is today but a handful.

Algy Cluff, chairman of Cluff Resources, a gold mining and exploration group that is developing gold mines in Zimbabwe and Ghana, is dispirited by what he calls the unhappy, or almost delin-

quent, condition of the UK mining sector.

He is not alone among mining chiefs in his gloom. But he says he is seeking a listing for Cluff shares on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in the hope that the South African investment community, which is more dedicated to mining, will follow Cluff with greater interest.

Johannesburg, he told last week's annual meeting, is today the most important mining market in the world, as well as being the foremost stock exchange in Africa.

The mining market sector of the London Stock Exchange used to boast famous British names such as RTZ, Selection Trust, Consolidated

Gold Fields and Charter Consolidated. But of these, only RTZ remains a mining concern, Mr Cluff said.

Selection Trust was taken over by BP. Consolidated Gold Fields fell to Hanson and has been disbanded. Charter moved away from mining to concentrate on industrial interests.

The disappearance of these companies has, in turn, led to the disappearance of the analysts.

Cluff says it has already received a favourable reaction from analysts and investors in Johannesburg, and that it will be making a formal visit and presentation to the South African investment community in July.

It is likely that Cluff will

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## Consumers show spirit

The signs of a post-election economic recovery may be ambiguous and elusive, but they are there. The credit business figures released yesterday are among the less widely-followed economic statistics, partly because analysts are unsure which of the figures to look at. Some follow the series for net credit outstanding to consumers, which fell again in April, for the eighth time in nine months. This seems to imply further retrenchment in the high street, despite the election fizzle.

By contrast, economists of a more bullish disposition can point to the figures on new credit advances. New consumer lending in April was £4.11 billion, 4 per cent up from £3.96 billion in March and the highest monthly figure since July last year. New lending on bank credit cards showed the biggest advance, to £2.68 billion in April from £2.59 billion in March. This, too, was the highest figure since last July and was almost 10 per cent above the average monthly credit card lending in 1991. Common sense suggests that credit card lending is probably the fastest-reacting category of consumer lending and is especially sensitive to the spirits of affluent consumers who benefited from the election result. Even the continuing reduction in total net credit outstanding can be seen as good news. Consumers are slowly but steadily working off their debt burdens. Building society and finance house loans are being rapidly repaid, while credit card debt and loans through retailers are growing. The first two categories suggest that a still-rumbling echo from the housing boom and bust. But many consumers are not overexposed to the housing market, and they may finally be starting to spend.

On balance, consumer spirits did seem to revive after the election. The question is whether the economic recovery will be strong enough to put idle workers and factories back into productive use.

## A fair shaikh

If you walk down the Strand one evening and hand out ten-pound notes to the homeless and needy, few of them will refuse. If they are depositors in the crashed Bank of Credit and Commerce International, however, the chances are they will try to renegotiate. The financial health of the creditors of BCCI hangs in the balance this week. On one side stand Touche Ross, the bank's liquidators, and the government of Abu Dhabi, the majority shareholders, who are asking for the court to approve a \$3 billion compensation scheme. On the other are the representatives of 800,000 depositors, who are intent to throw the plans back in their faces.

They do so at their peril. Last week, the Abu Dhabi government made it clear that its offer of a \$1.7 billion cash injection was final, and Touche believes it. The depositors still believe they can wring better terms from Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahayan, Abu Dhabi's ruler. But if the High Court rejects the scheme and the Abu Dhabi government is as good as its word, the alternative is bleak. Touche will be forced to enter a decade of protracted litigation against the Abu Dhabi authorities, to try to make them redeem the \$3 billion in promissory notes they gave the bank before it was closed.

The Abu Dhabi government would sue for the recovery of assets worth \$2 billion, lodged in the bank's sister company. The cost of the litigation could, in Dickensian style, leave nothing for creditors at its completion, win or lose. The proposed scheme, by contrast, should speedily repay 32 per cent of creditors' claims — better than anyone could have hoped for last summer. If the court approves the scheme on Wednesday, BCCI's depositors will be asked to vote on it. They should do so as the Bank of England's Deposit Protection Board, and accept.

On the day that  
PowerGen reports,  
Martin Waller assesses  
the implications of  
excessive profits for the  
whole industry

Backbench MPs, tabloid pundits and other soap-box orators who are revelling in the open hunting season for the water companies should be sure to save some of their ire for the electricity industry. The water industry can at least point to the need for heavy capital investment to justify big price rises and more modest increases in profit. Electricity companies will make much more tempting targets for the critics when their reporting season for 1991-2 starts.

Nearly all the backlog of capital spending on the core business of the 12 distribution companies, conveying power to people's homes, has been completed, excepting one-offs such as repairing storm damage. Yet the profit increases to be announced over the next month are staggering, certain to cause political ructions and largely the result of bad judgment, excessive caution and, it must be admitted, bad luck on the part of the government and its advisers.

City analysts expect the distributors to increase their profits before tax by an average in excess of 40 per cent, to a total of more than £1.4 billion. Some of the rises will be far higher: profits from Norweb will appear to double, partly due to big provisions made last time, and Manweb should enjoy an 80 per cent increase.

The increases are from profits in the 1990-1 financial year that were themselves much higher than budgeted in original government forecasts. The distributors were floated in December 1990. Significantly, this was just before their most important trading period, in the winter months, and the prospectus forecasts proved too pessimistic.

Essentially, the government and its highly-paid advisers came up with excessively cautious forecasts because of fears of higher oil prices before the Gulf war and because of unpredictable movements in the inflation rate, which made a mockery of the assumptions made when the companies set their tariffs. The industry has since had the benefit of lower costs, after widespread redundancies and a tougher approach to labour relations. So far, these cost savings have not been reflected in the charges levied on consumers. For the current year, domestic tariffs increases averaged only a couple of percentage points below the inflation rate.

Last year any potential dispute over profits was defused by an even worse one over executive pay. John Major, no less, condemned "excessive" top salary increases, notably at the two main generating companies, in the House of Commons.

Two simple facts serve to put this simmering and increasingly tiresome argument into perspective. Southern Electricity, the biggest of the distribu-

# Sparks will fly when electricity distributor results start to flow



High wire act: storm repairs apart, most power company capital spending has now been undertaken

tors, is worth about £1 billion on the stock market. Duncan Ross, the chairman, earned £197,000 in the 1990-1 financial year. Take a clutch of industrial companies, selected at random, of an equivalent market capitalisation: BET, De La Rue, GKN, Granada Group, Pilkington and TI Group. Last reported salaries of the top men there range from £271,000, 38 per cent ahead of Mr Ross, to about £500,000.

At National Power, news that John Baker, chief executive, could hope to earn anything up to £150,000 a year came on the same day as Mr Ross's windfall and prompted Mr Major's condemnation. Mr Baker's is a full-time, seven days a week post; a year earlier, and with significantly less fuss, Sir Trevor Holdsworth had been made National Power's chairman, on a package worth £185,000 a year for a job that he himself estimated would occupy three or four days a week at most. Sir Trevor, former head of GKN and president of the CBI, is an industry heavyweight: National Power was merely paying the going rate.

National Power and the smaller PowerGen, which is reporting final figures today, will miss out on the profits jamboree enjoyed by some of the distributors, contenting themselves with profits rises, the City

believes, of just 20 to 30 per cent. They have had a comfortable year, skimming with the electricity industry regulator notwithstanding, relying on fixed-price contracts with British Coal, whose largest customer they are. The generators face a less predictable future after the existing coal contracts come to an end next spring. The government is pledged not to interfere in the heated negotiations taking place over the new contracts but would dearly love to see a continuing long-term commitment to take coal at above world market prices, which would make the task of selling British Coal easier.

The generators would like some assurance that if they agree to take coal at above current world prices to secure their supply, denying the consumer some price cuts in the short term, the output of coal-fired power stations will not eventually be displaced by power from the growing number of gas stations now being built by independents, in which distributors have a significant equity involvement, on top of those being built by National Power and PowerGen. The distributors can, under existing rules, pass on any higher cost of power generation to their customers, but this indulgence could have a limited shelf

life. The government shows signs of wanting to limit further large-scale investment in gas generation.

In this tangle of conflicting interests someone will have to lose. The finger points at those same electricity distributors about to announce what the critics are bound to denounce once again as "obscene profits".

In all decency, the distributors should suffer. There is little justification in, for example, London Electricity, whose distribution network is mainly safely underground and whose capital spending requirements are minimal, raking in profits of £150 million in 1991-2 against a prospectus forecast of £116 million for the previous year. The companies raised howls of protest when a modicum of debt was injected into the industry before privatisation as part of the government's proceeds of sale, but several are now not too far off eliminating their debt.

They can keep the money in the bank, take it out to gloat over occasionally, and wait for the inevitable takeover bid when the rules allow. They can hand it over to shareholders by raising dividends. Or they can fritter it away through diversification — the industry is still heavily staffed by those who have been there all their lives and have no experience of doing anything else. The government's dif-

ficulty is finding a mechanism by which some of that surplus cash can find its way back to the public. A one-off tax levy might be politically popular but would break faith with investors and not help consumers.

In theory, the regulatory regime as overseen by Professor Stephen Littlechild allows no easy solution. John Wright, director of regulatory services at Price Waterhouse Corporate Finance and adviser to a range of privatisations including electricity, points out that the government and not Professor Littlechild put the present system in place and promised that it would be immune from political interference.

"Having set the price cap, the government believes that allows the companies to earn a reasonable return. In so far as they do better than that, it demonstrates their good management and true efficiency. It is really for the regulator to determine whether action is necessary," he says.

One longer-term option might be a switch to regulation based on rate of return on capital employed, an approach favoured by Sir James Mackinnon, the gas industry watchdog, who has suggested a real return of 5 to 7 per cent. Nigel Hawkins, utilities analyst at Hoare Govett, estimates that the distributors now enjoy rates of return of 9 to 9.5 per cent. The government has up to now rejected direct rate of return regulation because it removes incentives to capital efficiency. This type of regulation also invites clever accounting that boosts the value of the assets and so cuts the rate of return, a move the distributors probably already have under advanced consideration.

In the meantime, the regime envisages no movement of the goalposts, the price caps that govern tariff rises, before 1994 and they must be agreed with the industry under the usual threat of a time-consuming Monopolies and Mergers Commission enquiry. This is hardly the stuff of which quick political fixes are made. After comparable above-expected profit rises in the water industry in their second year in the private sector, the director general of water services, badgered his charges into volunteering to charge prices below the set limits.

Professor Littlechild could try a similar exercise this autumn, without inflicting any permanent damage on the prospects or stock market perception of the distribution companies. His seeming impotence in the face of what could prove to be politically embarrassing profit rises partly explains industry cocktail party chatter that the knives are out for him in Whitehall. He would be a hard man to remove in mid-contract, but would make a useful scapegoat.

"The interaction of the regulatory regime and introduction of competition is leading companies to improve customer services," Penny Boys, Professor Littlechild's deputy, said in a conference speech recently. "More and more, they now put the emphasis on the customer first." Her remarks could have a hollow ring a couple of weeks hence, when it becomes apparent just whose interests the industry is really putting first.

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### High taxation weakens Denmark

From Mr C. Smith  
Sir, There is one important weakness in the Danish economy which is not mentioned in Colin Nairn's article (June 3) and that is taxation.

The highest rate of income tax in Denmark is 68 per cent and there is also a net wealth tax of 1 per cent which can mean an overall tax on income of over 100 per cent. This, together with Norway, is the most heavily taxed country in the world. So long as this remains the case, so long will Danish prosperity (not to mention individual liberty) be less than it otherwise would be.

### Brand quality at a discount

From the Managing Director and Chief Executive of Kwik Save

Sir, In an article (June 3) on a new High Street grocery format the Chairman of Tesco, Sir Ian MacLaurin, is quoted at length, describing the products sold by discounters as being of low quality, and as merchandise which Tesco would not sell.

Whilst we cannot argue as far as the new overseas discounters are concerned, we take strong issue with the implications regarding Kwik Save.

We are the undisputed leader of the UK discount grocery market, with approaching 800 stores — ten times the aggregate number of stores of the other discounters.

as Heinz, Kellogg, Nescafe, Cadbury, Persil, Andrex, Pampers, Coca Cola, Weetabix etc from Tesco's shelves?

Fortunately, Britain's shoppers do not suffer the same misconceptions as Sir Ian. They are aware that Kwik Save's no-nonsense approach means that we do not impose the high profit margins which Tesco and many other food retailers operate, and which may shortly be the subject of an investigation by the Office of Fair Trading (an investigation which we would welcome).

Perhaps what Sir Ian meant to say was "Tesco sells the same branded products as Kwik Save, but not at the same low prices". That, we feel, would be closer to reality. Yours faithfully, GRAHAM SEABROOK, Managing Director and Chief Executive, Kwik Save Group PLC, Warren Drive, Prestatyn, Clwyd.

### Taking it literally

IVANA Trump, ex-wife of failed property tycoon Donald, has been at pains to stress that she has contributed as much as her ghostwriter to her novel *For Love Alone* which she launched in London last Thursday. Her publisher, Random House, however, seems not to be placing over-much reliance on Ivana's writing skills. Its two-book contract with the author, worth £500,000, required her to deliver a "verbal synopsis" of her next novel rather than the conventionally stipulated written one. One person who is apparently not amused is La Trump's editor, Kate Parkin. Parkin is said to have been tearing her hair out last week after a transatlantic telephone call during which the Czech-born Ivana outlined the plot for her latest novel in blow-by-blow detail for one-and-a-half hours.



"That should crowd them into our nice new shops."

does not mind the nickname colleagues have devised for him. The Dutch-born, much travelled Londoner is widely known as The Flying Dutchman around MM's Thames-side headquarters. His choice of opera as host of the first night of the 21st Midland Bank Proms at the Royal Opera House last night? None other than *Der Fliegende Holländer*, Wagner's opera about the Dutch sea captain doomed to travel the oceans.

### Packing a punch

AN ILLICIT raiding of the hospitality trolley appears to have done wonders for the aim Fred Carr of WI Carr and a team of City colleagues at Saturday's day pigeon shooting competition at West Wyeombe Shooting Ground. The celebrity-studded event, organized by Rothmans International in aid of the Nordoff-Robbins music therapy centre, raised £100,000 with Carr's City team, including Peter Hambro, CL Laing & Cruick-

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Cohen breaks cover

AFTER writing three crime novels under the pseudonym of Janet Neal, Charterhouse director Janet Cohen, aged 51, has decided to "give up being furtive" and publish her new novel, *The Highest Bidder*, under her own name. The book, centred on a management buyout from central government, draws on Cohen's experience as one of the City's leading MBO specialists and, she says, is the first "true novel" she has yet written in which "no one gets dead". Cohen, aged 51, yesterday blew her cover as an anonymous author by appearing on Melvyn Bragg's Radio 4 *Start the Week* show which provoked lively debate. Bragg said he did not believe local government was as corrupt as Cohen's book makes out. But Cohen maintains "skulduggery in every form is always around where people are competing for power and money — and that includes local authorities". Perhaps surprisingly, *The Highest Bidder* features no top woman MBO specialists. The nearest it gets to a high-powered female City figure is the heroine, Caroline, a senior commercial lawyer. Although Cohen originally qualified as a solicitor, however, she warns readers against thinking the heroine is anything like her creator. "She is far tougher than I've ever found it in my heart to be."

### Cap'n's choice

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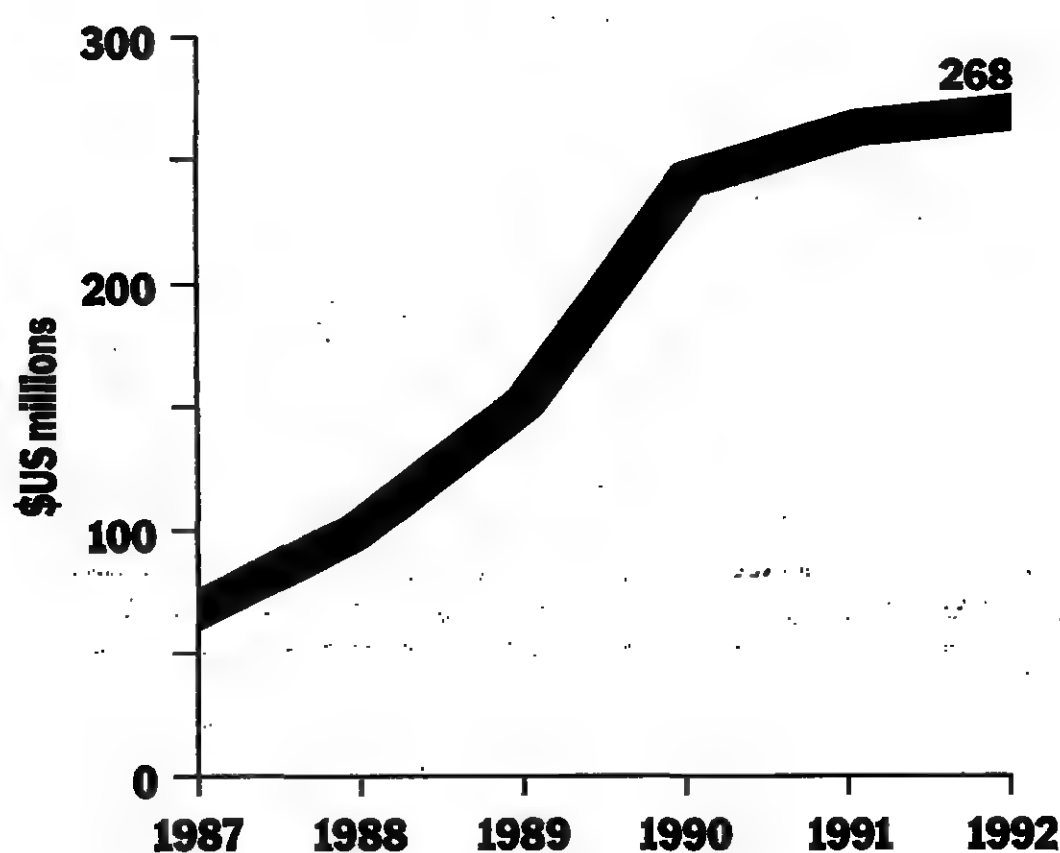
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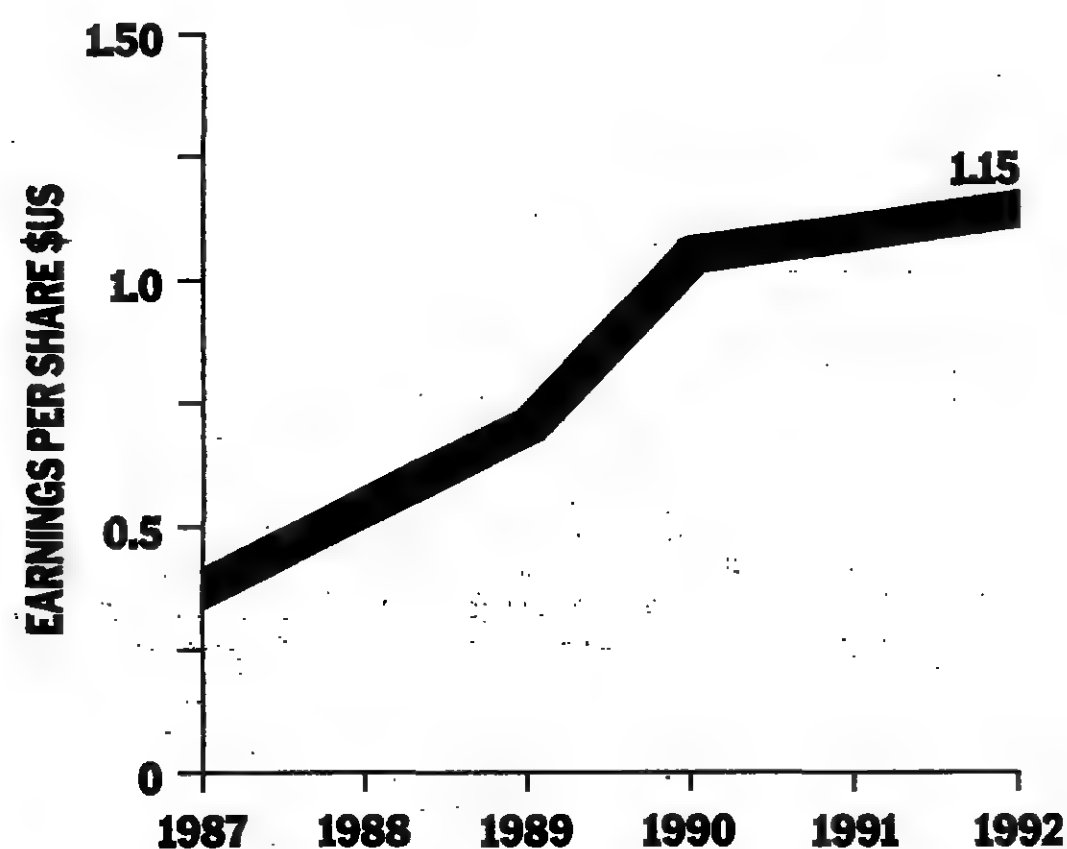


# \$268M NET PROFIT AN UNBROKEN RECORD OF GROWTH

NET PROFIT AFTER TAX  
1987-1992



EARNINGS PER SHARE\*  
1987-1992



GPA Group plc has continued to reach new heights. Air traffic is recovering well from the severely depressed market experienced during the Gulf conflict.

In the year to March 31st, 1992, we recorded year on year growth in net profit after tax to \$268 million. Revenues rose to \$2,010 million, while earnings per share rose to \$1.15\* and shareholders funds reached \$1,230 million.

During this period, GPA delivered 164 aircraft, an increase of 39%. We now have over 100 leasing customers in 49 countries, including a number of new markets developed last year. At the same time, our aircraft leasing portfolio grew by 33% to 409 aircraft.

As of March 31st, 1992, 90% of the Group's

owned jet aircraft fleet by book value consisted of Stage 3 aircraft. The weighted average age of the Group's owned fleet by book value improved to 3.8 years.

GPA continued its successful programme of selling aircraft and related financial products to investors. During the year, GPA sold 30 aircraft to airlines and investors world-wide and concluded a series of aircraft related financial product transactions involving 22 aircraft for a total of \$1.1 billion.

At the same time, GPA has continued its programme of long-term investment in aviation technical support services, benefiting from the

opportunities created by the scale of GPA's operations.

GPA believes the prospects for the future are equally bright. With air travel forecast to grow at 5% to 6% a year, industry analysts estimate that by 2010 about 11,500 new aircraft (worth \$850 billion) will be needed to meet this growth and to replace ageing aircraft.

Founded in 1975, GPA is the world's largest operating lessor of modern (post 1985) commercial aircraft with a global customer base and diversified portfolio of modern aircraft. GPA is an important link between airlines and other investors in aircraft.

The civil aviation industry is growing. And GPA is well positioned to grow with it – globally.



## GPA Group plc

WINGS FOR THE WORLD



# Widespread falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began June 1. Dealings end June 12. Settlement day June 22. Forward payments are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is pre-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## Portfolio

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No.	Company	Group	Price	Yld	P/E
1	Waring SG	Banking	10.5	4.5	12.5
2	Hill	Industrial	10.5	4.5	12.5
3	Micro Focus	Software	10.5	4.5	12.5
4	Mays	Electrical	10.5	4.5	12.5
5	Anglian Water	Water	10.5	4.5	12.5
6	Thames Valley	Transport	10.5	4.5	12.5
7	Son & New	Bricks	10.5	4.5	12.5
8	Thames Valley	Transport	10.5	4.5	12.5
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## CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

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## FINANCIAL TRUSTS

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## FOODS

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THE TIMES LINT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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## INFORMATION SERVICE

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# LAW TIMES

Below, Sean Webster examines whether the Children Act is working, and right, a lay justice looks at some problems in its administration

## A question of care for the young

When the Children Act 1989 was introduced last October it represented the biggest change in family law for more than a century and was welcomed by the profession. It followed the guidance by the then Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss on the Cleveland cases where she stressed that children's and families' rights should as far as possible be given equal weight within the overriding rights of the protection of the child.

The thinking behind her comment that "the child is a person and not an object of concern" became central to the Act. But recently revealed figures are now leading practitioners to question whether local authorities and the courts are using the Act effectively.

The figures were given by John Taylor, the Lord Chancellor's Department's parliamentary secretary, in answer to a parliamentary question from David Hindcliffe, the Labour MP for Wakefield, who was on the original committee formulating the legislation. They show that the number of emergency protection orders taken out under the Act is only half the number of the equivalent orders, the place of safety orders, taken out under the old law.

The new Act introduced emergency protection orders, which can be used by local authorities to take a child thought to be at risk of being harmed into care for up to eight days. It replaced the place of safety order, which performed a similar function under the old law.

In the first six months after the Act was introduced, only 800 emergency protection orders (EPOs) were made in the courts of England and Wales, compared with more than 1,900 place of safety orders in a six-month period between January 1 and June 30, 1991.

This, some lawyers say, could indicate that children are being left in dangerous situations when they should have been taken into local authority care. Peggy Ray, the chair of the child committee of the Solicitors Family Law Association, says: "It is possible that the reluctance of local authorities to use emergency protection orders may have exposed some children to risk."

"There is a real risk that this is happening, but, without knowing for sure why the number of EPO applications is down, it is difficult to tell."

Ms Ray believes that some social workers in some local authorities do not understand the Act and so are reluctant to use it. She says that they are intimidated by the highly detailed forms, which have to be completed for an EPO application.

ation to be made under the new Act.

Equally though, Mr Hindcliffe argues that the figures may show that local authorities are being more restrained in the use of their powers than under the old law and are thinking more carefully about what they are doing. If that is the case, "it must be applauded". He says: "Place of safety orders were used too zealously in the past. The damaging experience of removing a child from its home must be balanced against the possible risk of leaving it there."

The judiciary are watching the new figures with apprehension. At a recent conference, a High Court judge expressed concern that the number of EPOs is down compared with place of safety orders. But Peter Jones, family law specialist with John Howell & Co, a Sheffield firm, and a member of the Law Society's family law committee, believes the reduction may be good.

"It is to be welcomed if it is indicative of local authorities working in partnership with families and planning only measured interventions," he says. "Clearly, under the old system local authorities were too interventionist."

The unknown point is whether the reduced number of EPOs compared to place of safety orders results from local authorities using the Act responsibly and intervening only where there are sufficient grounds, or through fear of using the Act because they do not fully understand it. Ian Robertson, a family law expert and senior partner of Griffiths Robertson, a Reading firm, says there are signs that social workers employed by some local authorities have not received enough training to use the Act effectively. "Social workers have told me that in some London boroughs the training is inadequate and that they are actually afraid to use the Act."

Mr Robertson claims many London boroughs have small legal teams that are less specialist than those outside London and have poor communications with their social workers. Mr Robertson also believes some local authorities are not intervening sufficiently. "There is a risk they are not using the Act as it should be used: to protect children from ill treatment," he says. "Some areas are using it as a way to be nice to parents."

Some practitioners feel that the introduction of the Act has failed to speed up court proceedings, which was one of its main aims, and in some instances may have caused delays. They blame some courts for not accepting the Act's requirement for cases to be heard as quickly as possible. In a recent case in Bristol, a



Fewer protection orders for children: a committee is due to try to discover why

mother and her three children had to wait for six weeks for a preliminary hearing to deal with an application by the mother, who was getting divorced, for a residence order for her children to live with her.

David Burrows, a family practitioner from Bristol, says this kind of delay is hard for children to bear. "Delay causes distress to the children involved because it needlessly prolongs the uncertainty," he explains. Other solicitors say there are signs the Act is reducing the time it takes for cases to be processed by the courts.

However, it is not only court procedures under the Act and the role played by local authorities that have been criticised. Some solicitors consider that magistrates and some judges do not understand the Act sufficiently to use it. Some claim that magistrates are guilty of holding on to complex family cases, which should be transferred to the county court under the Transfer and Allocation of Proceedings Order 1991.

Ian Young, partner in Birmingham firm Young & Lee, says the reluctance of Birmingham magistrates to transfer these cases causes delays. "Local barristers have hardly touched public law children cases in the High and county courts so far," he adds. "Under the new Act, these cases are far more complicated for magistrates than they were under the old law and they are taking hours to make findings

of fact and give reasons for their decisions, whereas a district judge would take only a fraction of the time."

The problem seems to be that magistrates, who had responsibility for complex child cases before the Act was introduced, feel able to cope even with these more complex cases under the Act. In a recent case dealt with by Ms Ray, magistrates refused an application for a case to be transferred to a higher court even though both parties in the case were in favour of the move and the case involved a complex point of law.

Even High Court judges have been criticised for a lack of knowledge of the Act. Mr Robertson says: "There is a worrying doubt about the training High Court judges receive on the Act. I don't have the confidence that judges making decisions know what the Act is."

In one case Mr Robertson dealt with, the judge actually admitted to one of his colleagues: "We don't know much about the Children Act." The Lord Chancellor's Department made efforts before the Act was introduced to give guidance to the judiciary on the Act, and held one-day seminars around the country, attended by 1,500 judges, magistrates and justices' clerks. However, like all training courses for judges, attendance was not compulsory.

Despite the difficulties encountered by practitioners, most agree that the new system is proving to be a great improvement on the old law. Mr Robertson says the parties

involved are communicating more under the new system. "Everything is more open," he says.

The low number of emergency protection orders and the reluctance of some magistrates to transfer cases are two of the issues being examined by the Children Act advisory committee, chaired by Mrs Justice Booth. The committee will report its findings to ministers in November. Until then, there is only anecdotal evidence to suggest that the Children Act, designed to help children, may in practice not be helping all it could.

The author writes for Solicitors Journal

## Does the Act pass the benchmark test?

MORE THAN six months have passed since the Children Act 1989 came into force, of which three months were spent clearing up a backlog of cases. To say that the Family Proceedings Court is a nightmare would be an exaggeration. To admit, however, that it has generated more training, more work and more anxiety among that voluntary band of lay people called justices would be accurate. The difficulties associated with giving reasons for decisions have led to longer days on the bench. Before the Act, a day lasting beyond 4.30pm was rare. In the past three months we have seldom left the court before 5pm and on one occasion we rose at 8pm. Yet our court is a borough court dealing only with interim orders so far as public law is concerned. Some are turning into full-blown cases with all the evidence and cross-examination associated with a final hearing.

Even in an ideal situation the time spent writing out facts, conclusions, decisions and reasons is considerable. Some justices have taken half an hour to hear a case and an hour and a half working out what to say. Reserving our decision for another day is done with extreme difficulty. Technically, we can adjourn a case in order to find sufficient time and energy to formulate and write our reasons properly.

Try doing that when an interim order expires that day and a new one is opened. Try suggesting such a course of action to a large group involved in a case. Try convening them again for the next day — or re-assembling the same bench in anything less than a week.

Yet one can hardly complain at the numbers because the very fact that all these people can come before a court is exactly what the Act intended in order to look at the complexity of family life and find the right place for the child concerned. The Act recognises the important place of different people in a child's life. There is the father who has not seen his child and can now apply for a contact order. There is the grandmother who can look after a child with the agreement of the mother. Yet she may want a residence order, not only to safeguard the child's placement but also to acquire parental responsibility.

Under the old legislation, 75 per cent of cases were public and 25 per cent private. In the first three months, that position was reversed. Since January, however, public applications have been rising, no doubt because local authorities are coming to grips with the new situation.

We are all having to do that and nobody is under any illusions about the difficulties. There was a general if publicly unstated belief that lay justices might not be up to the practice of operating like judges. Many, however, have welcomed the opportunity.

Justices have always tried, through training and experience, to do a professional job, but as one magistrate put it, "Strictly speaking, we are no longer lay people. The Act is so complex that without fairly detailed knowledge one could not be reasonably certain of controlling a court."

On our current one-a-week sittings, the burden is considerable, despite a great deal of help and advice from the different clerks who have to work with us. Sitting on consecutive days is one answer but this is difficult enough with the present crop of lay justices. Where the new ones will come from to do such a time-consuming job, only heaven or the Lord Chancellor's office knows. We were given an eight-point plan to help us in formulating reasons. Stating the decision of the court was point number seven.

Those of us trained under the old system prefer to give it first and then return to the facts, the law and the reasons. Yet our clerk to the justices believes that it is better for us to acquire the new skill of stating the facts, agreed and disagreed, the evidence preferred and why, and then to give the decision. This helps all the parties to understand the reasons for the decision and enables them to accept the order.

The problem arises, not merely with the decision and formulation of reasons but with the physical business of writing everything down for every case. Everything from the note of a formal application to the setting-out of reasons has to be written in longhand, agreed with the clerk and read out in court.

What people are calling the learning curve goes on for all of us. But time might be saved by having a printed pro forma containing all the necessary legal preambles to the judgment and reasons. Such a system was recommended by Mr Justice Douglas Brown in February when he allowed an appeal from the justices on the ground that the bench's reasons were inadequate.

He suggested that justices avail themselves of a particular handbook and adopt its pro forma. Some sort of pro forma makes sense to me but what kind we should adopt is another matter.

The author is chairman of a family proceedings court in inner London



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## Amazing Myerson

THE Law Society, worried though it is about the rising level of fraud among law firms, should give thanks that it does not have a lawyer like Harvey Myerson.

A big-talking New Yorker, Mr Myerson won brief fame in London as the first American to tout the idea of a transatlantic association during the 1980s boom. He since became the managing partner of two US firms, both of which went bankrupt, leaving debts of more than \$80 million (about £44 million). He is now on \$250,000 bail after being found guilty of defrauding clients of \$2.5 million.

Mr Myerson was acquitted of defrauding Myerson & Khum, his last firm, of \$1 million, which he is alleged to have used to buy presents for his mistresses.

His partners were said to have turned a blind eye to his activities during the good times and could hardly complain later, once everything had gone wrong. He was spotted in the court corridor, debating his guilt with the jury that had just convicted him.

### Taxing matter

IS 94-year-old Tudor John, who lives in the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, going to set a record? Mr John was last

month sentenced by West London magistrates to 14 days' jail, suspended for 28 days on condition that he pay his £535.25 poll tax bill.

Mr Tudor is as adamant that he cannot pay the bill as Hammersmith and Fulham is adamant that it is not permitted by law to write off the debt. Let the courts decide Mr Tudor's fate, the council says.

### Squat costs

THE Confederation of British Industry wants squatting in commercial buildings to be made a criminal offence, as in Scotland. At present the only remedy against unlawful occupation is action in the civil courts.

John Pollard, a CBI policy adviser, says squatting in shops, factories and even company car parks is costing British business thousands of

pounds a year. To evict squatters, owners must bring a civil action against them and must also stump up the costs of repairing any damage and removing rubbish.

"On top of that, the business's insurance premiums go up," Mr Pollard says.

### Euro-push

MAASTRICHT may be in the melting pot but lawyers are still heading into Europe in a big way. This week, an initiative was started, aimed at breaking down barriers in legal practice between European countries through seminars and pooling business information.

The Institute for Lawyers in Europe is the offspring of Professional and Business Information plc, which started the journal, *Lawyers in Europe*, in January 1990, and Conduit Information Ltd, a supplier of business information products. The idea is to offer European lawyers a forum in which they also have access to an electronic information service and a monthly digest of legal journals and publications.

### Race lead

BRITISH citizens wanting to work in other European Community countries may find themselves disadvantaged by the weakness of race

discrimination law and practice in other member states. A report for the employment department from Southampton University concludes that UK laws are the most advanced in Europe and that only Holland has anything approaching the same standard of law and practice.

Some countries, including Denmark, Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg and Portugal, have no laws banning discrimination in employment at all. Community law itself does not expressly prohibit race discrimination.

### Boom time

THE FIRST in a series of banking law seminars hosted by Watson Farley & Williams starts today with a talk on insolvency, a boom area for lawyers during the recession. Ian Bond, a partner in Cork Gully, and Jane Ridley, an adviser in the enforcement division of the Securities and Investments Board, will address bankers and lawyers.

### Child aid

REUNITE, the organisation set up to help parents whose children have been abducted, is setting up a national network of lawyers to whom parents can be referred in kidnapping cases and who are interested in receiving information and referrals from Reunite.

Interested lawyers should contact the organisation at PO Box 4, London WC1X 8XY.

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# The limit to the summit

**Suzanne Clabon and John Faulks say the debate must be about what is practicable, not saving the planet**

Intense media coverage in Rio, now full of diplomats, politicians and environmentalists attending the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), or Earth summit, sometimes obscures the main issues.

The picture is further confused by the demands and declarations of intention that the summit will generate, varying in sincerity and worth, from countless sources including the International Chamber of Commerce and the dispossessed Kayapo Indians.

Centre stage, however, certain key developments, endorsed by the heads of state, are expected: international treaties on climate change and biodiversity; the Rio Declaration, a broad statement of principles, originally intended as an Earth charter; and Agenda 21, hundreds of pages of policy, in heavily negotiated language, covering environment and development issues intended to set the tone for the next century. The scale of Agenda 21 is evident from its estimated implementation cost. The most recent figure put on it is \$125 billion (£70 billion) a year.

This cost assumes agreement on issues at the moment subject to many disagreements, particularly between developed and developing nations. This appears to have caused a total change in the organisers' approach.

At one time, Maurice Strong, the secretary-general of UNCED, described the summit as the "last chance to save the planet". Significantly, as the complexity of the issues has emerged and the ferocity of the disagreement between rich and poor has been fuelled, not quenched, Mr Strong has spoken of a "new blooming of a commitment to work towards sustainable development practices at the local, national and international levels". This is a first step rather than an instant solution.

Not surprisingly, this view has been adopted by a number of politicians. Note the recent comments of Michael Howard, the



Problem-solvers: Maurice Strong, left, opens the summit conference, with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, on his right

environment secretary, and David Maclean, the environment minister, to the effect that the summit must be seen as the beginning, not the grand finale.

The real significance of the summit lies in Mr Strong's phrase

development might be described as the long-term improvement of human society through practices that do not compromise future generations by destroying the planet or the resource base.

The summit should be the broadest political recognition of sustainable development to date, and it is no coincidence that the European Community's forthcoming environmental action programme, the fifth such manifesto since 1972, is entitled "Towards Sustainable Development".

Furthermore, in environmental control, there are previous examples of how today's apparently vague expressions of policy map out tomorrow's obligatory regimes. One example is the Vienna Convention on Protection of the Ozone Layer, which led to the Montreal Protocol, and the phase-out and ban on chlorofluorocarbons. Agenda 21, in particular, must be seen

in this light. Sustainable development is the goal, then, that must be translated into specific individual measures, perhaps a long time from now — for example, as an energy tax, as reforms of international trade law while the General

**Nobody can sit back and watch... there are no spectators for this show**

Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) goes green.

The practice may add a premium to the exploitation of technology derived from biological resources in recognition of ownership of the original natural resource. Nor can anybody afford to sit back and

watch how the concept takes on a concrete shape. There are no spectators for this show. Stephan Schmidheiny, the chairman of the Business Council for Sustainable Development, sees industry and the private sector playing a vital part in the sustainable development debate.

Sustainable development, then, is the relevance of the summit, the increasingly rapid shift towards a regulatory regime for business and individuals that will discourage destructive practices and reward those who take responsibility for their actions.

At this stage advisers and clients must participate with as open an attitude as possible to the solution to global destruction, watching that solution as it grows, and contributing where possible.

The authors are lawyers in the Environmental Group of the solicitors firm Clifford Chance.

## Regulation under a single body

Six years on, the regime that regulates investment business needs to be tidied up

The Financial Services Act 1986 entered the statute book about six years ago and it is four years since it became an offence to carry on unauthorised investment business. Sir David Walker, the second chairman of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), has just retired, so it seems an opportune moment to take stock of the regulatory system inherited by his successor, Andrew Large.

Criticising in retrospect is easy. Regulators have often had their hands full with day-to-day regulation. However, notwithstanding recent proposals to merge at least two of the four self-regulating organisations to form a body to regulate the retail market, there remain too many regulators, leaving scope for uncertainty about responsibilities and inconsistencies of approach. This was recognised by Sir David on leaving office last week. The transfer of regulatory responsibilities from the trade and industry department to the Treasury seems likely to aggravate the position.

The definition of investment business remains wide, continuing to catch commercial arrangements involving experienced business counterparties. Many consider these should not be subject to regulation aimed largely at protecting private investors.

Much work has been done by the SIB in directing the re-casting of rule books but although this initiative has been welcomed it is not yet complete. Accordingly, it is not yet possible to judge whether its overall effect will be desirable, that is, simplification, without any reduction in investor protection.

Perhaps time would have been better spent in considering legislative and structural change to reduce the scope and enhance the effectiveness of the Act. Its main purpose was to protect investors. However, many commercial arrangements give rise to investment business without causing concern for the protection of investors. There is much to be said for reducing the scope of investment business so that it can arise only where investment businesses are providing services to customers, particularly members of the public. Such a reduction in scope would also concentrate regulatory minds on effective monitoring of what remained.

A single regulatory body with

sufficient resources and expertise to protect such investors also seems to be needed. To date, the UK has steered clear of such a centralised body. The City opposed the idea. However, although self-regulation by distinct sectors of the industry has much to offer in theory, there have always been doubts whether it was workable.

The acceptance by the SIB, in general terms, of proposals for a retail self-regulating organisation indicates that there is a feeling that significant economies and enhanced effectiveness can be achieved by bringing together in one regulator all the experience, skill and creativity of a number of existing regulators.

Over the years, there has been significant City criticism of the regulatory structure set up and implemented under the Act, yet the City seemed no fonder of the idea of a centralised regulator.

Should the City be allowed to have its cake and eat it? Maxwell pensioners would surely agree that now is the time to consider creating a centralised regulatory body along the lines of the American Securities and Exchange Commission. There is no reason why such a body should be any less independent of government interference than the existing regulators and it may well achieve greater effect through its centralised role. There would also be greater concentration of direction and approach — on policy issues, the application, monitoring and enforcement of rules, and the prosecution of offenders — than there seems at present.

Fear of the existing regulations does not seem to have driven investment business away from the UK. The structure does, however, appear confused and may thus be unattractive to potential overseas investors.

With 1992 almost half over and the economy showing few signs of recovery, that can hardly be desirable. A centralisation of regulatory roles, perhaps under the auspices of Mr Large and his colleagues, might well improve the position.

**DOMINIC CLARKE AND GIL CLARKE**

The authors are members of the financial services section of the City solicitors Herbert Smith.

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# Employer of contract driver is user of his vehicle

**Hallett Silberman Ltd v**  
Cheshire County Council  
Before Lord Justice Beldam and  
Mr Justice Laws  
[Judgment May 22]

A road haulage company could properly be regarded as the "user" of an unlawful abnormal indivisible load even though the vehicle was being driven by a self-employed driver.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by way of case stated by the defendant, Hallett Silberman Ltd, against its conviction on January 10, 1991 by Chester Justices of using on the road a heavy motor car drawing a wheeled trailer, when the weight of the vehicle and the trailer in combination exceeded the maximum permitted laden weight contrary to section 42 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Mr Robin Spencer for the defendant; Mr Michael Chambers for the prosecutor.

**LORD JUSTICE BELDAM** said that the defendant was a supplier of road haulage services operating from depots in several large towns. As part of its business it supplied transport for abnormal, indivisible loads and it owned and operated large trailers which, when attached to a drawing vehicle, made up a composite vehicle between 60ft and 74ft in length.

Motor vehicles and trailers of that size did not comply with the requirements of The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations (SI 1986 No 1078) made by the secretary of state

under section 41 of the 1988 Act but their use could be authorised by the secretary of state by order made under section 44 of the Act.

The authorisation of vehicles for carrying or drawing abnormal, indivisible loads was contained in the Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) General Order (SI 1979 No 1198). The use of heavy motor cars and trailers for that purpose was only authorised subject to certain conditions being fulfilled and, unless they were complied with, the use of such vehicles on the road was not authorised.

Under article 26 of the 1979 Regulations, the user of such a vehicle, or combination of vehicles, was required to give the highway authority an indemnity in a specified form and to give notice of the particulars of the vehicle and its route before it was used. "User" in that article had to mean the person who used.

The defendant, in the course of its business gave Cheshire County Council, as highway authority, an indemnity under article 26 covering movement of nominated vehicles between January 1, 1990 and December 31, 1990. Among the vehicles specified was a vehicle registration GH5 841X.

On February 19, 1990, the defendant sent a movement notification in respect of a load to be moved on February 22 on a trailer drawn by vehicle registration GH5 841X.

The question was whether the defendant "used" the combination of vehicles specified within the meaning of section 42(1)(b) of the 1988 Act.

council's trading standards officer stopped a large vehicle registration GH5 841X which, with its trailer, had eight axles and was over 76ft long. Its laden weight was 69,520kg, which exceeded the maximum permitted laden weight by 32,520kg.

The vehicle was in the charge of its driver, Mr D. J. Keeling. The heavy motor car which made up the drawing unit carried the defendant's name in large letters as did the trailer. The vehicle was loaded with a large piece of engineering plant. The movement notification did not fulfil the required conditions for the use of the combination of vehicles involved.

By letter of May 22, the council asked the defendant to verify whether it was the user of the vehicle on that date, to give its full name and address and to give full details of any contract of hire for the vehicle and the driver.

The defendant replied: "... we were the users of the vehicle in that, although the tractor unit is owned and operated under his O licence, the driver was working under our direction pulling our trailer on a route notified by us... The driver has a two-year contract with us in that he works only for us pulling our trailers on our work."

On receiving that reply, the council laid an information against the defendant. The justices found the case proved and convicted the defendant.

The question was whether the defendant "used" the combination of vehicles specified within the meaning of section 42(1)(b) of the 1988 Act.

On the facts it was difficult to imagine how the justices giving the word "user" its ordinary English meaning could have found that the defendant was not using the combination of vehicles. Nevertheless, the word "user" in the context of road traffic offences had acquired an attenuated meaning where it appeared in conjunction with the words "cause or permit the use".

As decisions on particular facts had been given, it had been held that only a driver or his employer, if the driver was acting on his employer's business, could be said to be using a vehicle on a road as opposed to causing or permitting its use.

In English law a servant's use of his master's property had always been regarded as use by the master, provided that such use was within the scope of the servant's employment.

No doubt by separately prescribing particular acts which amounted to causing or permitting the use of a vehicle, Parliament imposed some limits on the persons whose activities were to be regarded as amounting to use of the vehicle but, as in the case of an employer, a person could at the same time be a person who used and a person who caused or permitted another to use.

Nor did it follow that two persons might not in relation to a particular use both be persons who used. Causing or permitting another to use the vehicle on the road could be given adequate scope in defining secondary or accessory liability without unduly

reducing the latitude of the ordinary English word "use". The 1988 Act and the regulations made under it, made it clear that using was not synonymous with driving or being in charge of the vehicle: see, for example, sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the 1988 Act.

To determine the nature of an offence of using a vehicle in breach of regulations it was not only necessary to consider the words and import of the regulations which made the user unlawful but it was also permissible to have regard to the fact that they were more likely to be aimed at visiting primary responsibility on the person who was in a position to exert influence and control in preventing the threat to public safety which it was the purpose of the legislature to deter.

The Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) General Order, 1979 contemplated that a person indemnifying should be given by the person who used the vehicle or combination of vehicles.

The defendant contended that although article 26 of the 1979 Regulations referred to a case in which the person who used the combination of vehicles was to give the appropriate indemnity and notice to the authority for any road on which the combination of vehicles was to be used, that person was not to be regarded as the person using the vehicle on the road under section 42(1)(b) of the 1988 Act when the combination was proposing to use the road in compliance with the notice and conditions on which its use was authorised.

The defendant further contended that the self-employed driver of the drawing unit should be regarded as the sole user of the combination of vehicles.

In his Lordship's judgment, in some regulations the words "a person who uses a motor vehicle" were intended to cover a person whose vehicle was being used for his purposes and on his behalf, under his instruction and control, and that from the many complex factors which a court should take into account in deciding whether a person was using the vehicle on the road, it was too restrictive to isolate the terms of the particular contract under which the driver happened to be engaged to perform the duty of driving, as determining the question.

In the present case, the driver, although self-employed and providing the towing unit as part of the combination of vehicles, was not responsible for selecting the route, deciding the load, loading the trailer, deciding which trailer should be used, giving the indemnity or the notice of movement.

His use on the road of his own vehicle was authorised by the secretary of state provided the conditions were complied with. It became unlawful only when used in combination with the trailer when the maximum train weight was exceeded and the requirements of article 26 had not been complied with.

For those two failures the defendant was responsible.

Mr Justice Laws agreed.  
Solicitors: Aaron & Partners, Chester; Mr Colin Cheesman, Chester.

# Sufficient reason for extension

**Regina v Luton Crown Court.**  
Ex parte Neaves  
Before Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice French  
[Judgment June 3]

The protection of a member of the public from violence was capable of being a good and sufficient cause for extending the custody time limit of a defendant awaiting trial.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held dismissing an application by Stanley Thomas Neaves, who was in custody awaiting trial on a charge of rape, for an order of certiorari to quash the decision of Judge Rodwell, QC, at Luton Crown Court to allow the prosecution's application for an extension of the custody time limit under section 22(3)(a) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

Section 22 of the 1985 Act provides: "(3) The appropriate court may, at any time before the expiry of a time limit imposed by the regulations, extend, or further extend, that limit if it is satisfied— (a) that there is good and sufficient cause for doing so; and (b) that the prosecution has acted with all due expedition."

Mr Geoffrey Birch for the applicant; Miss Alison Barker for the prosecution.

**LORD JUSTICE MANN** said that the judge had extended the custody time limit because the complainant had been in considerable danger of serious bodily

harm and the judge had regarded that as a good and sufficient cause for extending the time limit.

Section 22 of the 1985 Act had come before the Divisional Court on a number of occasions but the court had refrained from defining what was "good and sufficient cause".

His Lordship also resisted the temptation to be definitive. However, the language of good and sufficient cause was unconstrained, not constrained as to cases which were of a particular nature.

The issue was whether the protection of a member of the public from the infliction of violence was capable in law of being a good and sufficient cause for extending a custody time limit.

His Lordship could see nothing in the language of section 22 which compelled him to conclude that it was not so capable and it would have offended common sense if it was not.

His Lordship accepted that if the prosecuting authorities did not act with all due diligence then an extension had to be refused notwithstanding the danger to the public, because section 22(3)(b) would not have been satisfied.

However, the consideration relied upon by the judge here was one capable of being good and sufficient cause.

Mr Justice French agreed.  
Solicitors: Hilliers, Baldock; CPS, St Albans.

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Benson's instinct reaps reward

# Hooper shows his value as Kent meet challenge

By JACK BAILEY

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS (final day of three): Kent (17pts) beat Essex (4) by four wickets**

A BOUNTIFUL day for Kent ended with their meeting the Essex challenge to score 343 runs from 92 overs, and surmounting it with more than three overs to spare.

With both sides forfeiting an innings, Kent's second championship victory also became an ideal warm-up for the Benson and Hedges semi-final on Wednesday against Surrey.

Hooper with 86, Taylor with 90, and Benson and Cowdrey, who made half-centuries, were the main individual beneficiaries and Hooper again underlined what a marvellous catch Kent made when they landed him before the beginning of the season.

Bearing in mind that Benson had put Essex in to bat, Foster's declaration after a further 37 runs had been added yesterday morning did not err on the side of meanness. He asked Kent to score their runs in only three overs fewer than Essex had taken in less favourable conditions. It was a calculated gamble at longer odds than were strictly necessary, and it never really looked in danger of coming off.

Without such, the Essex attack lacked variety. The pitch was too slow for Foster, Ilett, Andrew and Stephenson, and Chiles was virtually seen off by Taylor.

## COUNTY TABLE

	P	W	L	D	BPts	BPts		
Northants (15)	6	3	3	0	3	20	18	99
Northants (10)	6	3	3	1	3	20	18	99
Northants (17)	6	3	3	1	3	20	18	99
Durham (7)	7	2	2	2	3	17	20	73
Kent (5)	7	2	2	1	4	18	18	85
Warricks (2)	5	2	2	3	0	14	18	84
Lancs (5)	5	1	2	2	4	28	19	91
Notts (4)	3	7	1	0	3	18	17	59
Gloucs (13)	6	2	2	0	3	7	18	55
Middlesex (15)	6	1	1	2	2	15	18	50
Warwick (1)	5	1	1	2	2	15	18	50
Sussex (11)	6	1	2	2	3	20	14	50
Derbys (3)	7	1	2	4	13	17	16	45
Leics (18)	7	1	3	3	12	17	15	41
Gloucs (12)	5	1	1	3	11	14	11	41
Yorks (4)	5	1	3	5	18	15	14	34
Worce (7)	6	0	2	4	13	14	11	34
Surrey (5)	6	0	1	5	13	11	11	24

1991 positions in brackets  
† denotes transferred batsmen







TUESDAY JUNE 9 1992

England manager willing to take big gamble against Denmark on Thursday

## Taylor ready to play Palmer in role of sweeper

FROM STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT  
IN MALMO

LESS than 72 hours before England's opening match in the European football championship, Graham Taylor found himself lurching from profound confusion to a disturbing dilemma. Still bemused by the sudden loss of Mark Wright, he proposed yesterday that the crucial sweeper's role could be filled by Carlton Palmer.

The strategy represents an outrageous gamble but Taylor may have left himself with little choice. He spent most of the preparatory build-up in Finland convincing his squad, and telling the media, that the conventional 4-4-2 system had won nothing for England for more than a quarter of a century.

It was time, he said, for change and he revealed the new 3-5-2 formation in last Wednesday's game in Helsinki. It featured Wright acting not so much as a spare central defender but as a continental sweeper encouraged to go forward whenever the opportunity arose to prompt the attack.

The position carries heavy



responsibility. It also requires the player to be experienced and able to distribute the ball. Ronald Koeman will demonstrate for The Netherlands during the tournament how the part should be played. It is widely optimistic to expect Palmer to be adequate, let alone excellent.

For all of his stamina and willingness to work, he is not blessed with the other necessary characteristics. Moreover, he has no previous experience even at club level, although he has played before for both West Bromwich Albion, Sheffield Wednesday and the England B side in the central defence.

Whenever he did so, he was merely acting as the cover for the two markers. To ask him to take a more sophisticated role in only his fourth full appearance for his country is a risk scarcely worth taking.

Yet Taylor, when asked whether he was considering the option of using Palmer as

Wright's replacement, declared that he would have no misgivings. "I would be prepared to do that without hesitation," he said. "He was the man of the match in the B game against Czechoslovakia and he had an effect against Finland when he came on for the second half."

He recalled that Michel Platini was highly complimentary about Palmer after the French B game. Yet the Sheffield Wednesday representative performed then in midfield, where his industry is most valuable and his ability to harry the opposition is such an asset.

Taylor may be taking to excessive limits his policy of secrecy in suggesting that Palmer will be his sweeper against Denmark on Thursday, but he may well yet reflect that his public rejection of the conventional formation may have been premature. As his party has disintegrated, caution may be the wisest measure. At least England know how to play the 4-4-2 configuration.

Nevertheless, Taylor insists that he does not necessarily plan to alter his stated intention to lead England into a new, progressive era. The absence of Wright does not yet seem to have changed his mind. "No one is indispensable" he said.

It seems clear, though, that Wright's failure to report with the squad on Sunday has disrupted plans which had already been disturbed by the withdrawals of John Barnes and Gary Stevens. Taylor revealed that the Liverpool captain, when he was eventually persuaded to travel to the hotel in Luton on Saturday night, arrived with neither his boots nor any clothes for Sweden.

"He was neither in any condition to join us nor did he seem to be prepared to," Members of the international committee are concerned about the delay in transmitting the news of his injury to the England camp and Taylor was still waiting last night to hear official confirmation of his damaged Achilles' tendon from a London specialist.

The England manager, though clearly disappointed



Joining in: Graham Taylor, the England manager, duels with Dorigo in training

by the apparent lack of co-operation, stressed that he was not surprised by the complications which have occurred during the last five days. "I'm not as worried as people may think I should be," he said. "But I've been used to this over the last 20 months. I've not had every-one available for a single international."

"Because of the absolutely ridiculous system we operate in our country, we don't give the England team priority. I keep harping on about it

because if I don't say it, nobody else will. The only people who are happy if I don't say anything are those who make the decisions."

In the last 12 months we could have made far-reaching decisions but that opportunity has been completely by-passed. I don't apologise for making these comments and in future England players who withdraw will have to report with medical evidence to the Football Association unless they are unfit to travel."

## Mansell may suffer from rule changes

BY NORMAN HOWELL

THE Formula One motor racing teams have decided to make radical changes to the rules governing the world championship next season, following the dominance of the competition by Nigel Mansell and his Williams-Renault team this year.

Starting with the first grand prix of 1993, all the cars will be narrower and run on slimmer wheels and tyres. They will also use four-star petrol. The changes, which were given unanimous approval by representatives of all the teams at a meeting in Maranello, Italy, last Thursday, will be ratified by the sport's governing body, Fisa, later this year. The changes are the biggest to be made to the sport since it began in the 1950s. It has also been decided that pace cars will be introduced in time for this year's British grand prix on July 12.

It is hoped that the new rules will make Formula One more enjoyable for spectators but they are bound to offend the fuel companies and those who see the pursuit of excellence as the be-all and end-all of the sport.

The rationale for the narrow chassis and the reduction in width of the tyres is a simple one. These measures will reduce cornering speeds, making overtaking possible more often than at present. As things stand, many drivers are able to enter corners at very high speeds, keep the foot on the throttle and then exit just as fast.

A narrow tyre will have less grip around a corner, while a

narrower chassis will increase the weight transfer, which will also reduce the speed at which the car can take the corner. And though the speed round the bends will be reduced, it could be that straight line velocity might even increase as a smaller chassis and narrower tyres will reduce the aerodynamic drag on the car as a whole.

The fuel regulation that was agreed on at Maranello, is potentially the most controversial of all. At present, it is clear that the scientists of Elf, the French petrochemical giant, have come up with a fuel that Shell, Agip, Mobil and BP are finding very hard to match. This benefits Williams and Renault but it has raised doubts about its value to the car-manufacturing industry as a whole.

The teams' decision to use a single fuel in 1993 means their cars will be using the same fuel that most of us put in our cars. The rule is likely to be enforced by use of random tests during races and a car will be black-flagged if non-permitted substances are found in the fuel.

Any changes are bound to penalise a team that is thriving under the existing conditions, in this case Williams-Renault, but in what is an election year for Fisa, many people want to be seen to be taking action.

The politics of the sport might make a slight difference to the spectators, who have been a little short-changed in recent years but may now find that the spectacle improves.

## Premier clubs given nothing for policing

PREMIER League clubs were told yesterday that they will not receive a penny towards the cost of policing next season's matches. The 71 remaining Football League clubs will share a £2 million Football Trust subsidy with the Scottish League and the GM Vauxhall Conference.

The decision to exclude Premier teams — it is still not clear whether they will be awarded future project awards to help with the cost of Taylor implementation — was taken at a meeting of the

15-strong board of Trustees.

Members include the FA chairman, Sir Bert Millichip, the chief executive, Graham Kelly, his PFA counterpart, Gordon Taylor, and the Football League president, Gordon McKeag.

Last season the 22 first division clubs — they officially left the Football League at midnight last Thursday — all claimed the maximum £25,000 grant towards cost of policing and stewarding.

Now they must meet the bill out of their pockets.

## Ferguson's tooth is an ache for Scots

SCOTLAND'S complicated injury problems in the run-up to the European football championship increased yesterday. No sooner had Maurice Malpas and Pat Nevin been passed fit to travel to Sweden than Andy Roxburgh, the Scotland coach, was told that his forward, Duncan Ferguson, had been confined to bed after an operation to remove an infected tooth.

"Duncan has had a reaction to having his tooth taken out," Roxburgh said. "He didn't get a wink of sleep last night. I've spoken to his father, who will deliver him to our hotel tonight so that we can check him out."

"At the moment he is on antibiotics, so we will have to

see how bad the problem is once he arrives."

Concern over the inexperienced Dundee United player, aged 20, was offset by the news that his colleague, Malpas would be fit to catch the flight to Gothenburg tomorrow. The veteran of two World Cups aggravated an Achilles tendon injury during his fifth international in Oslo last week.

Malpas has responded to treatment and Roxburgh is hopeful that his defensive stalwart will be ready for Friday's match against The Netherlands whom he watched in action against France in Lens last Friday. "We knew this group would be tough, but that game confirmed it," he said.

## Stewart books opener's spot for summer

BY ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

EDGBASTON (final day of five): England drew with Pakistan

STRICTLY in terms of competitive sport, this was one of the more pointless days of Test cricket for many years.

Discussion in the sparse crowd focused on the last time any Test match was so monopolised by the batsmen, and even the minor moral victory of first-innings lead was claimed by England only ten minutes before stumps were drawn for the last time.

In terms, however, of the developing Test careers of Alec Stewart and Robin Smith, the final day of this first Cornhill Test was far from inconsequential. Stewart's chances of 190 were overlapped, though never upstaged, by 127 from Smith as England repaired the damage, partly self-inflicted, of earlier days.

Having chosen the wrong team, an error admitted last night by Graham Gooch, and then bowled indifferently and caught inadequately, survival was a solitary aim for England. On a pitch described by Gooch as "a batsman's paradise", Stewart and Smith put on 227 for the third wicket and banished all fears.

If doubts had persisted over Stewart's role in this side, none survived his six-hour innings, the most fluent if not the most valuable he has played for his country. Stewart waited a long time for his first Test century, averaging only 26 in his initial 13 games, but in his last five he has amassed 676 runs at an average of 95. He can now be linked in as Graham Gooch's opening partner for the rest of

the summer, and the queue of contenders for the job may have a lengthy wait.

Gooch led the praise. "Opening the batting has helped Alec discipline himself," he said. "He has always struck the ball well, but this has made him a better player, in fact a much better player."

Asked if Stewart would keep the job, Gooch raised those expressive eyebrows and said, chuckling: "If you have just scored 190 in a Test you might be a bit put out if

you are not opening next time round." End of debate.

Smith's position in the side was not in question. After 32 Tests, he remains one of only a handful of current batsmen to average above 50. At home, where he has made all his seven Test centuries, his record is quite phenomenal, but he needed help yesterday. Mushtaq Ahmed putting down a straightforward return catch when Smith had scored only 21.

He had made a further 106

when Mushtaq finally dislodged him. Smith misjudged the goosy but, despite whirling away almost unchanged from the city end, this was not a day the chunky leg spinner will fondly remember.

England's batsmen had a good look at him, and neither the way they played, nor the way Gooch spoke later, suggested any paranoia in the dressing-room about Abdul Qadir's successor.

"I don't think he has im-

proved his Test record," said Gooch, a cryptic reference to Mushtaq's Test average of more than 60 runs per wicket.

Mushtaq's miss was Pakistan's sole blemish in the field, a record with which England might have been delighted.

"At this level, if you hang on to your chances it can change the game," Gooch said. "We didn't do that and we paid for it. I don't think we bowled well on Saturday but

the dropped catches certainly didn't help."

Gooch was quick to confirm the view that England's bowling lacked variety. "In hindsight, we should have played our leg spinner," he said. "We all make mistakes. Ian Salisbury was very disappointed and, as it has turned out, he should have been in the side."

Salisbury's prospects for the next Test at Lord's will be debated by the selectors tomorrow, when another concern will be Ian Botham's strained groin.

Botham did not bat yesterday but he was not alone in missing out on the run-fest. In mid-afternoon, a weary Stewart pulled Rehman to mid-on, having batted for ten minutes short of a full day.

This was the first Test wicket for the whipper-snapper, at 17 the latest infant prodigy of Pakistan's remarkable talent scouts. He did not wait long for his second.

Ramprakash had padded out only to give Lamb a break from his six-hour vigil. Finding himself in the middle, he received the best delivery of the day, second ball. Rehman, bowling from wide of the crease, obtained lift and movement and Ramprakash's thin edge was confirmed by umpire Kitchen.

When Lamb also missed out, driving on the up to mid-off, Rehman had taken three for 17, rare figures indeed in a game that yielded an average 82 runs for each of its 11 wickets.

Photograph, page 32  
John Woodcock, page 32  
Kent triumph, page 32

### FINAL SCOREBOARD FROM EDGBASTON

England won toss			
PAKISTAN First Innings			
	Bs	4s	6s
Aamer Sohail c Stewart b DeFreitas	18	0	1
Mis-hit hook to square leg			
Ramprakash lbw b DeFreitas	47	0	5
Self hurried through beating defence			
Ashraf Mubeen c Russell b DeFreitas	29	0	5
Driving at wide half volley			
Javed Miandad not out	153	0	15
Salim Malik lbw b DeFreitas	165	1	19
Moving forward to drive			
Incoming off-umpire not out	8	0	1
Extras (b 5, lb 19)			26
Total (4 wickets, 541 min, 137 overs)			448
Pakistan won toss			
ENGLAND First Innings			
	Bs	4s	6s
G A Gooch c Mubeen b Aqib	8	0	0
Pushed ball to short leg off ball and pad			
A J Stewart c Salim b Rehman	190	0	31
Skied attempted pull to mid-on			
G A Hick c Javed b Waqar	51	0	7
Carved short ball to gully			
R A Smith lbw b Mushtaq	127	0	18
Playing back to a goosy			
M R Ramprakash c Moin b Rehman	0	0	0
Edged driving ball to wicketkeeper			
A J Lamb c Javed b Rehman	12	0	2
Played early at drive to extra cover			
C J Lewis b Mushtaq	24	0	5
Inside edge onto stumps			
T R C Russell not out	29	0	5
D R Pringle not out	0	0	0
Extras (b 5, lb 19)			26
Total (7 wickets, 478 min, 119 overs)			488
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	Bs	4s	6s
Aamer Sohail c Stewart b DeFreitas	18	0	1
Mis-hit hook to square leg			
Ramprakash lbw b DeFreitas	47	0	5
Self hurried through beating defence			
Ashraf Mubeen c Russell b DeFreitas	29	0	5
Driving at wide half volley			
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M R Ramprakash c Moin b Rehman	0	0	0
Edged driving ball to wicketkeeper			
A J Lamb c Javed b Rehman	12	0	2
Played early at drive to extra cover			
C J Lewis b Mushtaq	24	0	5
Inside edge onto stumps			
T R C Russell not out	29	0	5
D R Pringle not out	0	0	0
Extras (b 5, lb 19)			26
Total (7 wickets, 478 min, 119 overs)			488
England won toss			
PAKISTAN Fourth Innings			
	Bs	4s	6s
Aamer Sohail c Stewart b DeFreitas	18	0	1
Mis-hit hook to square leg			
Ramprakash lbw b DeFreitas	47	0	5
Self hurried through beating defence			
Ashraf Mubeen c Russell b DeFreitas	29	0	5
Driving at wide half volley			
Javed Miandad not out	153	0	15
Salim Malik lbw b DeFreitas	165	1	19
Moving forward to drive			
Incoming off-umpire not out	8	0	1
Extras (b 5, lb 19)			26
Total (4 wickets, 541 min, 137 overs)			448
Pakistan won toss			
ENGLAND Fourth Innings			
	Bs	4s	6s
G A Gooch c Mubeen b Aqib	8	0	0
Pushed ball to short leg off ball and pad			
A J Stewart c Salim b Rehman	190	0	31
Skied attempted pull to mid-on			
G A Hick c Javed b Waqar	51	0	7
Carved short ball to gully			
R A Smith lbw b Mushtaq	127	0	18
Playing back to a goosy			
M R Ramprakash c Moin b Rehman	0	0	0
Edged driving ball to wicketkeeper			
A J Lamb c Javed b Rehman	12	0	2
Played early at drive to extra cover			
C J Lewis b Mushtaq	24	0	5
Inside edge onto stumps			
T R C Russell not out	29	0	5
D R Pringle not out	0	0	0
Extras (b 5, lb 19)			26
Total (7 wickets, 478 min, 119 overs)			488

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MATCHES TO COME: June 18-22: second Test (Lord's). July 3-7: third Test (Old Trafford, test day: July 5). July 23-27: fourth Test (Headingley). Aug 6-10: fifth Test (The Oval).



## Waiting for god with Bob's people

In Sheshemane, Ethiopia, Sam Kiley sees how resident Rastafarians are preparing to celebrate the centenary of the birth of their saviour, and his return to the promised land

Rita Marley may have been the wife of Rastafarianism's greatest prophet, the late Bob, who was believed to be the reincarnation of the Angel Gabriel, but last week she had a bad dose of Addis Ababa's bubbly turnip. Dressed like a Ghanian princess in a towering turban of kente cloth and flowing robes, she walked briskly around Sheshemane — the spiritual home of Rastafarians and physical home of the movement's most faithful followers — with a pained look on her face.

Perhaps it was the Herculean concentration required to control bowels with a life of their own which made Mrs Marley look so crestfallen. But this land was special. It was given to the African diaspora by the Rastafarians' living god, Emperor Haile Selassie. Why the apparent lack of interest at a time when Sheshemane is enjoying a new lease of interest from outsiders, and when 1992 could be the year of the second coming of Jesus Christ? Did she not realise that this scruffy little town is home to the most committed Rastafarians she is ever likely to meet?

Perhaps she did, and it was this that made her uncomfortable, for there is a yawning gap between Rastafarianism as a trendy black-consciousness offshoot of reggae music, and the dirty realities of trying to build the promised land in the Third World.

Local Rastafarians thought she might have taken a little more interest in their efforts. Surely the wife of Bob, mother of Ziggy, would be interested to see how Sheshemane's inhabitants were paving the way for their dispossessed brethren to return to Mother Africa? But she swiftly shook the Sheshemane dust from her feet to return to the five-star haven of Addis Ababa's Ghion Hotel, promising to return three days later. She didn't.

"We was hopin' she stay a little longer. But no matter. We happy," shrugged Noel Dyer, who came to Sheshemane 27 years ago. Having first flown to Britain from Jamaica he hitch-hiked to Ethiopia through France, Morocco, the Sahara, Egypt and the Sudan with nothing but his wits and faith to keep him going. He is now the oldest member of the Sheshemane Rastafarian community, which does not subsist on living on the northern edge of Sheshemane town, about 130 miles south of the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

In the early 1960s, Selassie gave 500 hectares near Sheshemane to the Ethiopian World Federation, a group set up in the 1930s to keep the Diaspora in touch with the continent. He was modestly embarrassed and sheepish at the devotion shown to him by the descendants of African slaves, but impressed by

their desire to return to the only uncolonised country in Africa, and anxious to show gratitude for relief supplies sent to Ethiopia during the Italian occupation of 1935-1940.

Now just 11 hectares of that territory remain in Rastafarian hands. The rest has been eaten up by Ethiopia's most numerous tribe, the land-hungry Oromos, with the help of Ethiopia's former dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam, who fled to exile in Zimbabwe last year. Some Rastafarians are planning a campaign to get their land grant back.

Along with other long-timers in Sheshemane — such as Anthony Ruben Desai, a Jamaican who arrived in 1976, his friends Desmond and Daniel and B.J. Moody — Mr Dyer was used to seeing how the territory was often a disappointment to those with a naive view of Africa as the Garden of Eden.

The 50-odd permanent Rastafarian residents of Sheshemane have survived the coup that toppled Selassie, the "red terror" that came with Mengistu's revolution in the

In the blue-light of dusk, a huge black beetle buzzed clumsily past Aswad's eyebrows. "Uuh. See what I meant?" he cried, flailing the air as if to beat off a swarm of hornets above his dreadlocks.

A city boy, he was having a hard time getting to grips with the creepy-crawlies. Two weeks earlier Ras Aswad (Amharic for "black prince") and three chums from Brum, all in their twenties, had suffled a trunk with enough Rice Crispies and Weetabix for three months and set off for Sheshemane. Masai, a textile designer, had been before. He prepared the group to cope with the African cuisine — but nothing had prepared them for the lavatories. Aswad blanched at the thought of them: "Disgustin'."

Aswad, C.J., Masai, and Kamba, four Young Turks of the Rastafarian movement, were disappointed at the slow pace of development in Sheshemane, which has been in Rastafarian hands since the 1960s but remains rooted in pre-industrial Africa. The Rastafarians living there are almost indistinguishable from the other locals as they tend their gardens and maize fields on the fertile soil of the Rift Valley escarpment. Along with B.J. they dreamed of a community that would serve as a model for repatriation programmes that would catch on in other parts of the continent.

Walking through Sheshemane's market, where the air is thick with diesel smoke from semi-derelect buses and the pungent fumes of decaying fruit, the locals swiftly pegged the Birmingham Rastafarians for what they were, not Africans but *ferengi* (foreigners). They were juicy victims for the howling hawkers, tinkers and stall holders shoving sandals made from old tyres, pungent spices, zips, padlocks, and second-hand plastic jerrycans in their faces.

"It was just like being a reporter on one of those TV documentaries or a film about being a war correspondent," said C.J., still wide-eyed. None the less, the likely lads from Birmingham were determined to be undaunted by Africa. If C.J. had anything to do with it, the promised land would be air-conditioned.

"We're not interested in going backwards, you know. We're from the West and we have higher standards. When we come to settle here we want to have videos, TV, fridges, running water and proper sewerage. We might do a bit of agriculture but we will build factories, generate employment for the locals, and enjoy a proper standard of living, like we're used to."

"Africa awaits its creators," said C.J., who was ten years old when Margaret Thatcher was first elected prime minister and runs a successful wedding business in his home town. The slow pace in



Neighbourly: C.J., a Rastafarian from Birmingham, cools off in Sheshemane with local children. "Africa awaits its creator," he says

Sheshemane has quickened with the arrival of the Brummie Rastafarians, who took a craftsman's pride in the work they supervised on the federation's HQ. The manual labour is being done by locally hired Ethiopians and the Birmingham men brooked no shoddy work. By the time they leave, their centre will be an incongruously well-built structure surrounded by barbed wire, shacks and mud huts, thanks largely to their no-nonsense approach to Third World development.

"You have to watch them closely you know. These Ethiopians are a bit lazy and stop as soon as you go around the corner. But they learn fast," C.J. said.

The remains of the murdered emperor are scheduled to be given a traditional Orthodox Coptic burial in Addis Trinity Church on July 23, the centenary of his birth. The staunchly royalist Amhara tribe is anxiously looking forward to the event and the possibility of the return of the Menelik dynasty to Ethiopia. But the Rastafarians, while also keen on the re-establishment of the dynasty in Ethiopia, are distancing themselves from the funeral, as they believe the emperor is not dead, and are planning a celebration of Selassie's birth. Thousands are expected to arrive in Addis and Sheshemane, so time is of the essence.

On top of that, the end of the world might be nigh and preparations must be made. According to the Rastafarian interpretation of the Book of Revelations, Armageddon is just around the corner. They are nothing if not theologically brave.

"We have entered the endgame. The whole world will be engulfed by flame and nothing will survive, except in the Rift Valley, which will be protected from the poison winds — I read that in a scientific paper," said Desmond cheerfully through a cloud of smoke in his newly built house.

B.J., a sublimely gentle, grey-bearded man whose house and garden on the main road to Addis are always filled with other people's children, added: "You see, the signs seem to be here. We have been told that there will be war and rumour of war." There would be earthquakes in diverse places, an acceleration of natural disasters. Rahab (America), Babylon (Britain), Gog (Russia) and McGo (Germany) would disintegrate, or poison themselves and their environment.

The good news, according to Desmond, who came to Sheshemane in the 1970s from Jamaica, is that "there won't be no flies in the promised land — Ras Tafari gonna get rid of them — I gonna ask him".

Concurrent to Armageddon will be the second coming, or the return of Selassie, whom Rastafarians call Ras Tafari (Head of All). Selassie was last seen alive in 1974 by

Mengistu and six accomplices before they suffocated the 83-year-old emperor with a pillow soaked in ether and then hid his body beneath a latrine in his own palace.

"The Bible tells us that our saviour will be of the Davidic line and like His Majesty born in the month of Judah — that's July," explained Anthony Desai, while he guinea and scaled fish outside his hut. He expects to see the saviour in his lifetime — possibly this year.

### TOMORROW

The Freemasons go public: Walter Ellis on women, rituals, secrets and society

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## The ghosts of the great no longer scare

When I was in my mid-thirties, I made a deal with a man who was in his mid-eighties. We were reading a final draft of a contract, about to sign, when I noticed a troubling omission in the clauses.

"I don't like to say this," I said, "but this contract makes no provision for the outcome of the work or of payment in the event of ... ahem, a death."

"Oh," he said, suddenly alarmed and squinting at the draft. "Well, we'd better cover that. I suppose the position must be that, if you die, the terms of the agreement become the responsibility of your estate."

"It wasn't my death I was worrying about," I said.

"Ah," he said, cottoning on. "But I'm in the fortunate position of being the employer, and your death would be a much bigger disaster for me and this contract than would my own."

This scene played again last week. My widowed mother, who is 76, was staying here for a few days. We were discussing the arrangement we both want to make which will bring her to live closer to me. We turned our plan around and pulled it apart, put it back together again and jumped up and down on it to test its strength and then I said: "Is there anything wrong with the

idea so far as you can see?"

"The only thing that worries me," she said, "is what I'll do if anything happens to you."

"What kind of anything is on your mind?"

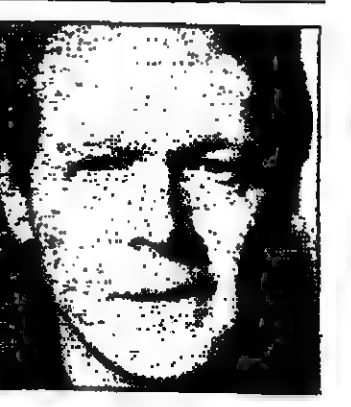
"Well," she said, "you know..."

"They've got some nerve, these septuagenarians and octogenarians. Maybe it's because they've got age on their side. The laws of nature and of actuarial calculations seem to turn to the advantage of those who live every day suspecting that it may be their last. They know that it can't be very long before that distinguished thing comes at last, whether it snaps into shape in the next ten minutes or takes ten years to materialise. Those in middle-age are open to a wider perspective of uncertainty. We are at an age when we must recognise that it might come for us in the next ten minutes, in a cranial eruption or an arterial gridlock. Or it might go on hanging around in the wings for another 40 years."

Woody Allen's screen persona is always moaning and whining that it's impossible to take pleasure in being alive when you know that you must eventually die. I don't think it's that certainty which spoils the party for the middle-aged. We have come to terms with the general proposition and the essential facts:

### MID LIFE

Neil Lyndon decides it is not too late to make his mark on the world



We know that we are going to go some day. But when? That's the main question of our age.

Knowing not the hour shouldn't much bother anybody under the age of 30: they know that, whenever death might come, it's not going to happen in this millennium. Dance on. Anybody over 70 lives with the daily understanding that it could happen any second, so, again, why worry? Those in the fret-

ful middle may find themselves wishing, as I do, for an intimate word with the Fat Controller of the universal timetable, saying: "C'mon, make an exception and give me a clue. I shan't tell."

If you knew how long it was going to be, you could make a proper plan, sign contracts with confidence, make binding agreements for definite periods. You would know whether you are wasting your time looking at seed catalogues for next year's annuals or considering the building of a boat on which to sail around the world. Should the urgent business of today be the paying of the gas bill or the settling of final accounts with the Almighty? A little less uncertainty on this question would take off a lot of heat.

It will come soon. Stretched to the limits of plausibility as the thought may be, it is even possible that, at the age of 45, I may still be fractionally nearer to the beginning than the end. At some point during the next few years that kidding will simply have to stop. By the time you clock 50, you really do know the matter of fact.

After that point, as the perspective of uncertainty narrows fast, new beginnings may become sufficient to themselves. A new romance is not likely to produce a new

family. You might start a new business but it is unlikely to become a global empire. You may learn a new game but you must not expect to be seen on *Grandstand* representing your country. Sorry, baby. If you are going to begin anything, you may have to be satisfied with the thought that the end may be in the beginning.

The arrival of that limited revelation may be taken as a benevolent intercession. I can feel it coming on. For 15 years, from my early twenties, I cheered myself with the thought that, while I had never written a serious work of fiction, others had made later beginnings. I would remind the house that Joseph Conrad didn't get started on his writing career until he was 37. After the death of that comfort in my late thirties, I turned to Stend: reminding everyone that he had not hit the stride of his fictional work until he was in his mid-forties. Now that I have passed the Stendal post, the greats are all gone, taking with them their intimidating and inhibiting standards of comparison.

The age of the great first novel being over, no ghosts, ghoulies or shades stand between me and that small beginning which could be made without fear. What I need now is a contract.







Poetry is reaching a larger audience than ever before. Nicolette Jones musters the muses with mass appeal

# Not averse to scanning new lines

Poetry is flourishing. Not only has it been reborn as a popular literary or oral tradition, it is also buoyant in commercial terms. Look at the evidence: in publishers' catalogues and festival programmes, in bookshops and on bestseller lists, in reading rooms and the back of pubs, in underground presses and even on the Underground. But perhaps it is on television and radio that the most striking instances of poetry's new-found pulling-power are found.

BBC 2's six-part poetry documentary series, *Words on Film*, was launched last week with performance poet Damian Gorman's *Devices of Detachment*, his moving warning against complacency about the violence in his native Ulster. It is followed this Friday by *Xanadu*, poet and probation officer Simon Armitage's portrait of a condemned housing estate in Rochdale.

Both these programmes underline today's healthy view of poets as commentators — from a refreshingly eclectic range of ethnic and stylistic backgrounds — on matters pertinent to everyday lives. What a happy withdrawal from the depressing and lonely cul-de-sac into which the cryptic poetry of the mid-20th century seemed to be heading.

Meanwhile, a Tynes Tees poetry series, *Wordworks*, is a candidate for networking to the traditionally unpoetic ITV audience. And Radio 4 has a new poetry series, *Stanza*, in August, covering such themes as the resurgence of dialect verse, and politics in poetry.

Publishing is taking comparable initiatives. This month, Sinclair-Stevenson launches a new poetry list, at a time when many publishers are cutting their lists back to the more obviously commercial books. Faber & Faber, the pinnacle of poetry publishing even before the days of T.S. Eliot's editorship, is publishing new poetry at 15 times the rate it used to. That is not quite as prodigious as it sounds: Faber's former poetry editor, Craig Raine, published only three new poets in ten years. His successor, Christopher Reid, has now taken on five in his first year of office. These include Simon Armitage, whose new collec-

tion, *Kid*, was turned down by Raine.

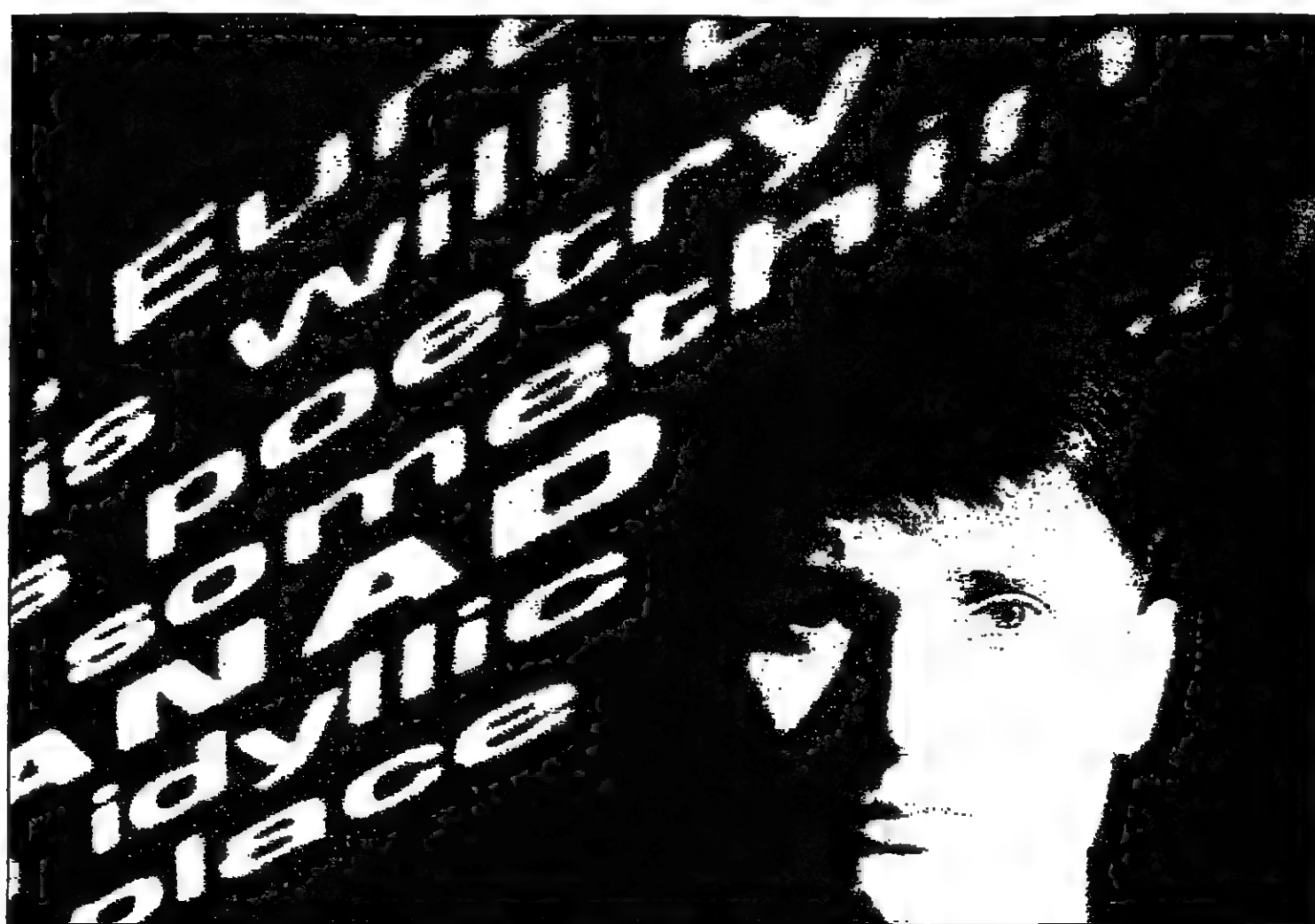
Armitage's *Xanadu* and his first collection, *Zoom*, are published by the Newcastle-based Bloodaxe Books, Britain's leading independent poetry publisher. It was established in 1978 and now has a £250,000 turnover on its 40 to 50 new books a year. Such specialist poetry publishers as this, and Anvil and Carcanet, started small but now qualify as medium-sized.

One of Bloodaxe's poets, Brendan Kennelly, has topped the bestseller lists in Ireland. Indeed, it is said that farmers in Tralee threatened to burn down the hall he was reading in if they could not get tickets. He is a favourite on Irish chat shows and fronts car ads on television.

He is not the only poet to be winning widespread popularity. In London last year people were turned away from a sold-out Seamus Heaney reading in the Queen Elizabeth Hall. In the few months since publication, Wendy Cope's second collection *Serious Concerns* has sold 28,000 copies. And *100 Poems on the Underground*, a volume of poems that fill the ad spaces in tube trains, has sold 40,000 since September.

Poetry magazines are proliferating, from the long-established *Poetry Review* to such publications as *Bête Noire*, a biannual tome out of Hull: "big enough to kill a burglar with", but only £2.50. Cabarets thrive (for example, at the Blue Nose Café, the Troubadour, Apples and Snakes and the Hard Edge Club in London alone); and festivals can fill halls when the poet has an international reputation, such as Nicaraguan Ernesto Cardinal at the South Bank or Joseph Brodsky at Hay-on-Wye.

Of course it is possible to overestimate the poetry boom. That happened in a spectacular debacle a few years ago when the national "Poetry Live" promotion tried to fill the Albert Hall for a reading by Irina Ratushinskaya, newly released from a Russian labour camp, and other poets. Only 20 per cent of seats were sold, and the resulting debt contributed to the financial troubles which obliged the National Poetry Society to put its Earls Court headquarters



Poet and probation officer: Simon Armitage's *Xanadu* (BBC 2, Friday, 9.30pm) is about a decaying housing estate in Rochdale

on the market and seek smaller premises in Covent Garden. Moreover, there are signs of contraction as well as expansion: some publishers' poetry lists have been lost (Paladin) or cut back (Chatto, Cape, Secker). And not every poet sells.

Andrew McAllister of Bloodaxe declares, however, that "poetry is healthier than it has been for half a century". He believes that the quality of contemporary writers is exceptional: he claims that Carol Ann Duffy and Sean O'Brien are as good as W.H. Auden, and that such is the level of grassroots creativity in the regions that Huddersfield and Dewsbury vie for the title of "poetry capital of Europe".

Neil Askey, Bloodaxe's founder, set out to publish an international poetry list. Defying Robert Frost's famous remark that "poetry is what

gets lost in translation", he believes that the translated work of foreign writers, notably East Europeans, has influenced young British and American poets, and widened their concerns beyond the lyric and personal.

"A lot of English poetry is about embarrassment; East European poets are writing about ideas, which gets over the barrier of translation," Askey says. "The poems are not so much style as content." Having poetry tackle "issues", has, he believes, also opened up its readership beyond academic circles. So, he thinks, has the new emphasis on performance.

Maura Dooley agrees. She manages the four-year-old Voice Box literary-performance space at the South Bank and its revived biennial Poetry International festival, coming again in September. She also advocates the integration of poetry

with other media to reach new audiences. Her programme has included evenings of dance and poetry, that tempted dance fans into queuing to buy the poems of Roger McGough and Liz Lochhead.

There are those who connect the consolations of poetry with the traumas of a recession. But if there is a growth in the poetry market, it is more likely due to the dedication of a number of individuals towards making more poetry accessible. Availability stimulates interest.

The BBC's adventurousness is largely thanks to the director Peter Symes, whose five television collaborations with the poet Tony Harrison finally persuaded BBC Bristol to give the go-ahead for the *Words on Film* project, which Symes had been urging for years. At Faber, it is Christopher Reid's enthusiasm that has got his new poets into print. "I'm like a football manager before

the match," says Reid. "I have absurdly high expectations for every poetry book. And what I live for is finding new talent."

Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson, the publisher whose new list will include out-of-print poets of repute, established living poets, new poets and humorous versifiers, sensed the potential for sales around the poetry reading circuit. But he also believes that "you are not a proper publisher unless you have a poetry list."

"Say, Britain, could you ever boast, Three poets in an age at most?" asked Jonathan Swift in 1733. As in other matters, Swift was too pessimistic. No poets today would claim to be anything so grand as Shelley's "unacknowledged legislators of the world". But the multiplicity of voices being heard does suggest that the old rumours about the imminent death of poetry were much exaggerated.

## ARTS BRIEF

## London's guest

MARISS JANSONS, the Latvian-born conductor said to be David Mellor's closest friend in the music profession, has been appointed principal guest conductor of the London Philharmonic. He succeeds Kurt Masur, who has become music director of the New York Philharmonic. Lenningrad-trained Jansons has made his name with the St Petersburg Philharmonic and his own orchestra, the Oslo Philharmonic. He next conducts the London Philharmonic in November.

### Mine gold

A NEW Lillian Baylis Youth Dance Company is to be formed at Sadler's Wells Theatre as part of the RTZ Corporation's first arts sponsorship. The mining giant has chosen perhaps the least glamorous side of arts sponsorship: training. Other beneficiaries of the £370,000 three-year package are the Royal College of Art, the Royal Academy, Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Centre for Young Musicians. £40,000 from the government's Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme will help pay for a four-day festival at St James's Piccadilly, featuring the work of sponsored organisations.

### Annie again

THERE'S no business like ancient musicals business. A new production of Irving Berlin's *Annie Get Your Gun*, by Roger Redam, will open at the Plymouth Theatre Royal



Kim Criswell: to be Annie

in August, before setting off for London via Birmingham, Edinburgh and Glasgow. In the Ethel Merman role will be a modern-day better, Kim Criswell.

### Last chance...

IS Robert Stephens, a sad-eyed knight ruefully contemplating his own sordid habits, advancing years and chronic childlessness, one of the great Falstaffs? Very likely; but in any case Adrian Noble's brisk, bold production of the two parts of Shakespeare's *Henry IV* are well worth a visit before they close on Saturday at the Barbican (071-638 8891). The same night also sees the end of David Leveaux's able revival of Ford's *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* at the Pit, incest, slaughter and all.

## TELEVISION REVIEW



Jolly style? An image from Ged Haney's animated film, *The Kings of Siam*

## Mostly top-drawer stuff

Back in the olden days, when television had five minutes to spare they showed us the potter's wheel, or that train hurtling from London to Brighton. Today, we are not let off so lightly. Last Saturday morning Channel 4 gave us the ultimate adult delicacy, *Bon Appetit*, a Bulgarian cartoon parable about pigs.

In the short film department, it seems, Channel 4 can supply almost anything. They have stopped up so many adult animations, videos and experimental films that they now need Ken Livingstone to act as censors and guide. In last night's *The Dazzling Image*, he stood surrounded by three curious pyramids of books — you, spotted, no doubt, Leon Trotsky's *My Life* — and ushered in five British onslaughts on the body politic, the first of a seven-part series.

"They all leave a strong impression of an issue addressed and a point made," he said. "Though not always a point well taken: Ivan Urmov's murky shot *Toxic*, starring

the carcass of a beached toxic whale, made the year's most resistible environmental plea. However, John Butler's *World Peace Through Free Trade* used brevity, impish wit and computer graphics to lampoon a nightmare society run on Thatcherite principles. And Colin Daggett's *Killing Kids*, an urgent wail at the number of children in Northern Ireland hit by plastic bullets, pressed its own point home with passion. No potter's wheel, this.

The programme's jewel was undoubtedly *Zygois*, backed by the British Film Institute, which spent a brisk 20 minutes cantering through John Heartfield's life, and investigated modern uses of the artwork he pioneered, photomontage. Here was material for a full hour; but Gavin Hodge and Tim Morrison juggled facts, images and quizzical analysis with a sorcerer's skill. Taking their cue from Heartfield's anti-Nazi montages, the directors manipulated newsreels to show the ranting Hitler brushing his

teeth, playing with a Yo-Yo, and plucking a chicken: small beer perhaps, beside Heartfield's originals, but they helped generate the film's puckish spirit.

Instead of Red Ken and his pyramids of books, *Four Nations UK*, Channel 4's wincingly titled Sunday animation series, called up the directors themselves to glue the short films together. Ged Haney, director of *The Kings of Siam*, appeared before a disorienting mirror, telling plangent tales of six-and-a-half years' unremitting toil, and a nightmare blockage over sketch 254.

*The Kings of Siam* — fairground stamens twins with separate, thwarted ambitions — was couched in a jolly, faux-naïf graphic style that called children's book illustrations to mind. Then came the main attraction: Paul Berry's *The Sandman*, a fine, anguished nocturne with the camera angles and distortions of German Expressionist cinema. A fearful little boy, all forehead and eyes, walked up winding stairs to bed. Cue the Sandman, a capering creature with hooked nose and chin who ensured bedtime darkness by stealing the child's eyes.

Berry himself, red hair flying upwards, surrounded by dolls, looked scarcely less strange than his creation. This beautifully-made film has proved Berry's passport to Hollywood: he is due to work with Tim Burton, director of *Edward Scissorhands*, on a Disney cartoon project, *Nightmare Before Christmas*. Judging by appearances, they should get on very well.

GEOFF BROWN

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

## When sincerity is not enough

Audiences respond positively to orchestral music that sounds "big". No matter that a piece might delve no deeper than a pinprick: if it sounds difficult, and ends in triumph, it will do. Benjamin Lees's recent Horn Concerto, played for the first time in this country by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under Lorin Maazel at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, last Friday, duly obliged.

In this work the composer seems too often concerned with filling rather than creating space. Although at the opening attention was drawn by the music's resonances of younger Tippett or Copland, those similarities were superficial and extended only to the shape of an idea, an angular harmonic movement, an orchestral texture. The first movement, a fastish one, ploughed on with often dull rhythmic formulae and with predictable development and



Maazel: dour conducting

an overlong cadenza: its successor, marked "Calmly", obsessively reiterated focal pitches and intervals before the brief finale aroused the audience to its enthusiastic response. William Caballero, a resourceful soloist, deserved the ovation for himself. Listening to this piece became rather like enduring the explanations of a particularly "sincere" insurance salesman, and Maazel's dour conducting of Stravinsky's episodic *Le Chant du Rossignol* proved a similar kind of experience. Afterwards, however, the tour-de-force gave a more cogent account, with their rich sounding strings and luscious, doubled woodwind, of Dvořák's Seventh Symphony.

At least Lees means what he says. So does Arvo Pärt, but as an Estonian living under the Soviet regime he had to fight hard for his spiritual corner. In the Philharmonia Orchestra's concert of "Banned Music" at the Festival Hall on

Saturday, conducted by Neeme Järvi, we heard one of this composer's first efforts at asserting his individuality, a 1968 setting of verses from St Matthew's Gospel called *Cre-do* (not the Creed itself); its subject matter went bravely against the grain of Soviet orthodoxy.

This piece is just as naive, in a different way, as the Lees. But it has a spiritual core lacking in the American's work. Where in other circumstances the use and extension of the C major Prelude from Book I of Bach's *Well-Tempered Klavier* would sound kitsch, and the choral and orchestral chaos to represent evil might seem like illustrative overkill, we can admire and understand the boldness of Pärt's gesture in the context of its own time and place. This was a concentrated, atmospheric performance, with Boris Berman the quietly assertive pianist.

Except as a piece with which to endear himself, there seems no reason *d'être* for Prokofiev's sprawling patriotic *Cantata for the Twentieth Anniversary of the October Revolution* (1937), which followed after Stalin's death, a recording was made of the work in the Soviet Union in the Sixties, but with Stalin's verses expunged. This was its British premiere.

The music is often loud and vulgar, yet not without inventive merit, particularly in the orchestral interludes. It is also extremely colourful. Six accordions, for instance, relieved the texture and lightened the flavour of Lenin's or Stalin's speeches, set verbatim for huge choir (the robust Philharmonia Chorus, equally good in the Pärt), and the large array of offstage brass added to the general noise, rivaling the vast percussion group.

But when a man instantly recognisable as Gennady Rozhdestvensky strode purposefully into the hall and declaimed a couple of Lenin's lines with mock sternness through a megaphone, we knew that ridicule — not of Prokofiev — was the point of this reading. All this blasted memories of Richard Stobman's earlier elegant account of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto into oblivion.

Kent Nagano chose Prokofiev's saner Classical Sympho-

ny to open his concert with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican last Thursday. His was a neat, sharp reading which cleverly prepared the orchestra for the task of accompanying Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. The diva did not disappoint, either in four concert arias by Mozart or in four songs by Richard Strauss. Her

control of dynamics and phrasing was superb. Those who left when she did, however, missed a fine account of Strauss's *Till Eulenspiegel*, in which Nagano captured every nuance of the hero's wicked whims. He is a Straussian to be reckoned with.

STEPHEN PETTITT



## Frailty, Pain, Loneliness

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# Three into one will go

Are children who sleep with their parents more secure, or less independent?

Barbara Lamb finds a bedside dilemma

The home of Dr William Sears, an American paediatrician, is a modern, two-storey house in a select suburb of Los Angeles. There are enough bedrooms for all his eight children but a fleeting glance into the Sears' master bedroom in the early hours might suggest that here is a family crammed into a luxury bedsit. For five of them sleep in the same room.

Dr Sears, aged 51, his wife Martha and two-month-old Lauren share a queen-size bed, with three-year-old James and seven-year-old Matthew on futons alongside. Hayden, now 13, and ten-year-old Erren have graduated into sleeping in their own bedrooms.

Dr Sears is a proponent of the communal bed and the youngest-born accept the sleeping pattern as the norm. Dr Sears, who emphasises that he and his wife only have one child in bed with them at one time, is convinced they have all benefited from it, with the children growing up to be more secure and independent. He has no hesitation in recommending it to parents for the first two years to create what he describes as "a healthy sleep attitude".

He accepted a transatlantic call at 7am, unperturbed by baby Lauren crying in the background. "I think sleeping with your baby is even more important in today's society than it was decades ago, because many working parents just do not have the time to be with their child during the day. It gives them a chance to reconnect with that child in bed at night." They take Lauren to bed when they go, around midnight — she always sleeps on her mother's side, protected by a guard rail so that she cannot roll out of the bed.

Dr Sears says that it was their fourth child, Hayden, who convinced them that some children do need this special sort of security. "Every time we put her down she'd wake up, sometimes four or five times a night — we took her into bed for survival." He admits to feeling closest to his four youngest and is convinced that Hayden has turned out to be a particularly sensitive and well-balanced girl because of it.

But what does sharing your bed with a baby do for parents? More precisely, what does it do for their sex life? Dr Sears believes that well-adjusted parents will find other times and places to be alone. It makes you more creative, he says. "There is always the fear that it is going to ruin one's sex life," he admits. "But I find that it makes us more free agents, that the bedroom is not the only place where love-making need occur. Every room in the house is a potential love chamber. A baby for the first six months is going to sleep through anything anyway."

John Pearce, a professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at Nottingham University, disagrees with this optimistic view. "One of the problems if the child shares the parents' bed is, where does it sleep?" he says. "If it is between the parents then it is going to be very difficult for them to get together, even for a cuddle. I believe that sometimes the child is put between the parents to stop sex."

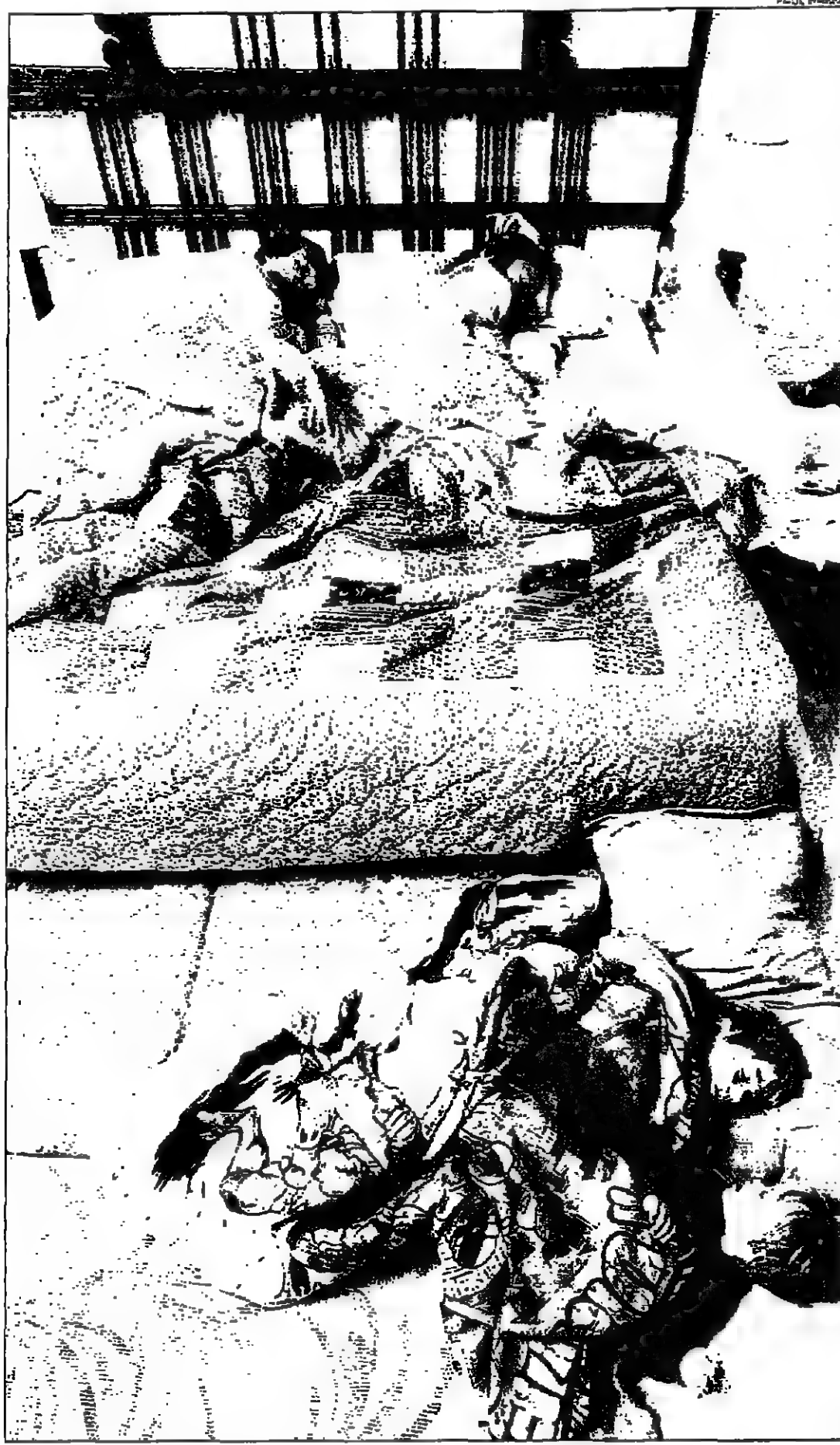
Undaunted, Dr Sears and his wife are studying the effect of bed-sharing on baby Lauren. For short periods she is encouraged to sleep in the adjoining room. Nightly, they measure her heart rate, pulse rate, breathing regularly and blood oxygenation and are able to

**'I get up much less in the middle of the night and we all sleep soundly. He's growing up to be secure and independent'**

make a direct comparison between the two. Their preliminary results show that her physiology improves when she sleeps next to them. Although his theories are now gaining ground, Dr Sears acknowledges that his views are not shared by the majority of child-care experts and he still encounters much opposition. Many thousands of parents, both in Britain and in the States, still raise their children according to the wisdom of Benjamin Spock — close the door and leave your baby to cry, don't take him or her into bed with you. This is something Dr Sears feels strongly about. "When a parent is standing outside the room wrenching his or her heart out because the book says — let 'em cry, harden your heart; you're spoiling them if you give in — that's going to get a parent into trouble. Many parents fear that if you pick a child up every time it cries, hold it and let it sleep with you, you're going to spoil that child and it will never become independent. That's nonsense. A child becomes independent because it went through that critical time, the first two years, having its needs met, because it was close to its parents."

CRY-SIS, the London-based national support group for mothers of crying babies, do not recommend the communal bed for the baby under six months for fear of overheating. But James McKenna, a Californian anthropologist, takes the same stance as Dr Sears, seeing infant-parent co-sleeping as very much the norm for parents. Leaving babies to sleep alone for long periods of time in quiet places is both historically and culturally unique, he says.

Dr David Haslam, a Cambridgebridge GP, was inundated with letters praising the family bed after publication of his book *Sleepless Children*. He started doing research into the topic after years of suffering with his own two children. Like Dr Sears, he believes that for the most part the whole family gets a better night's sleep. "If people want to do it that's



Three's company: William and Martha Sears in bed with Lauren; James and Matthew are nearby

fine," he says. "There is no evidence that it's harmful, except where the parent has taken alcohol or drugs, and there is certainly proof that there are fewer sleep problems in children who bed-share, provided everybody in the set-up is happy. They tend to have less disturbed nights. If they do wake up they feel secure enough to go back to sleep again."

Weaning the child from the parents' bed back into their own room need not be a problem either, he maintains. "It should be done in a positive way — maybe you're grown up enough to have your own room. You sell it to them a bit like the next step in growing up, as something they want to do, not a negative rejection."

Dr Sears' experience is that children can be "weaned" in this way at around two years of age. "There is a transition just like weaning from the breast, you do not do it immediately," he says. "You go from the bed to a futon next to the bed or let the child sleep with a sibling every other night. And then the infant will graduate to its own room. But we leave a futon at the foot of our bed with strict night-time rules that if he or she gets frightened by, say, a storm, he or she can tiptoe in without disturbing us."

Clare and Matthew Downing, who live in Stockport, started sharing their bed with their son, Sean, when he was aged 15 months; at four Sean still sleeps with them, although he starts off in his own room for the first part of the night.

Regularly around midnight he slips out of his own bed and struggles in next to his mother for the rest of the night. "It's just a nudge and I move over," Mrs Downing says. "He tends to get in on my side, we've got quite used to it now. I get up much less in the middle of the night and we all sleep soundly. He's growing up to be a very secure, independent, extrovert little boy. I've just accepted it and it's part of the family set-up."

Alison Deakin, a health visitor who runs the Shaw Heath Sleep Clinic in Stockport, believes the communal bed works for certain parents. "If a child is having difficulty sleeping I would much prefer the parent get into the infant's bed, it wouldn't be a change of environment. Some parents come to us saying the child in their bed is very active, and is disturbing their sleep. The idea would be gradually to wean the child back into its own bed."

"If an infant is particularly disturbed at night-time and has difficulty settling on its own then it might be better for it to be with the parents. Where it doesn't work is when things are a bit rocky at home and the child is picking up those vibes."

Professor Pearce is firmly in the Spock camp. "Children must experience being alone in a safe place like their own room. The light is off, the door is shut, the child is actually alone and being able to cope with that experience is really very important."

He goes on to contradict Dr Sears further by saying that children who sleep in their parents' bed are relatively insecure. He also stresses that sometimes the children are there for the parents' security and not for the child, particularly if one parent is away.

"Children have to grow up pretty quickly these days," he argues. "While it was maybe appropriate and acceptable in previous generations, that isn't the case today. They have to become independent and you really can't get independence when you sleep in the same bed."

## Heavenly but vile bodies

Babies are born with heavenly bodies. Just perfect. Of course, parents like to be sure. A common sight in maternity wards is that of brand new parents unwavering their brand new infants to check the bits: examine the exquisitely formed ears, stroke the velvety skin, inspect the extremities, audit the tiny starfish fingers, and count the toes that look like miniature cocktail sausages.

We have all done it, taken an inventory of the new arrival, ensuring that it has one of everything that's essential, two of everything that's desirable and ten of everything that's usual. Such a marvel of design and engineering is the new born human child, that its owners cannot help but view and review it with rapture.

What we do not instantly realise is that the bodywork of this new little body has now become our total responsibility. Not that anyone expects much in the way of personal maintenance in the first couple of years, but the servicing and physical care of their coachwork is our duty for at least the next decade.

Let us start with basic sluicing and sprucing. To begin with, that is relatively easy. True, it is back breaking to bend over a bath tub each night, trying with one hand to support the small, slippery object and with the other to soap it. Shampoo cereal out of its hair, and dissuade it from sucking the flannel. Nevertheless, the daily dunk can be accomplished in a finite amount of time and one is rewarded with the divine smell of a clean, talcumed baby, glowing and doily ready for bed.

When the child becomes mobile, the whole process is lengthened considerably. Small children want to bathe themselves, insisting on scrubbing parts of themselves and the taps with a toothbrush, probably yours. And while it attempts lengths of the tub in breaststroke and poses bath salts down the overflow, you begin to realise basic defects in the body design. How many nooks, crannies and crevices there are which conceal the edible and inedible debris of the day, parts of which soap cannot reach. All this lathering and loofing has to be done amid an armada of plastic ducks and wind-up frogmen.

Up to five, they seem willing enough to be bathed daily. Then they discover other interesting things to do and protest that they are clean enough as they had a bath last week. From five to 11 or so, they see little reason to spend time in the bathroom. After that you get little time to spend in the bathroom because they are always in occupation. Before the teenage years, when their bodies and minds become their own, the broad rule about baths is: boys never want to get in, girls never want to get out.

The body whose ablutions you have carefully supervised is now out of bounds to you. The arrival of new lumps and furry bits means that your children barricade themselves into the privacy of the bathroom. You can only guess from the gritty ring left round the bath and vast quantity of shower gel, unguents and potions consumed that some personal hygiene practices must have been undertaken.

While you're still in charge, you discover that cleansing is merely page one of the maintenance manual. Only professional manicurists exceed the score of mothers like myself, obliged to cut 60 nails a week (that's only my own and the fingers and toes of two children). Although no owners' handbook



DAVINA LLOYD

is supplied, owning a child is not dissimilar to owning a motorcar. Regular checks, inspections and certificates are required. While you are running them in, a health visitor will call to assess general development and progress, weigh and measure them. The GP may undertake their six-week test, checking basic physical functions. I don't know whether, if your baby fails it has to go back to being five weeks and re-take the examination.

Later, like the MOT, there are set inspections and servicing processes — vaccinations, eyesight tests and a procedure to discover whether they can hear a cup being hit with a spoon behind their backs (a skill for which my children have still found no subsequent use).

Most other body checks are down to the parents: quarterly foot-measuring (if you can get away with the same pair of shoes for three months); half-yearly dental check-ups (with all the attendant repair work in the form of fillings, scrapings, braces, lessons from the hygienist on the use of floss; the annual height measurement against the bedroom door, which can then never be redecorated).

Hair, too, is a major headache. I have one child who has been to a professional hairdresser only once. Since babyhood, he reckoned to be the sole human who had nerve endings in his hair, he claims he can actually feel pain when it is being trimmed. When he was little, I used to trim his hair while he slept. My daughter has long, straight yellow tresses she can almost sit on (though it is usually her brother who chooses to sit on her hair), and that requires hours of brushing, removing clay from school art classes, yoghurt from lunch and other items best not identified. Their hair, my responsibility.

Looking after your children's bodies also involves repelling invaders. You cannot imagine when you first hold that seven pounds of perfection in your arms that you will be obliged one day to apply verruca medicine, hunt for nits, and persuade your husband that he too must be dosed with threadworm powder. Verily, vile bodies.

As with the family motor, regular servicing maintains the value, reduces the risk of breakdown — and it always seems to run better when it's been through the car wash and the mats have been vacuumed.

Much is said about the care we must give to the internal, spiritual growth of our children, the "inner child". The idea appeals to most parents: their own youthful training has taught them about the proximity of cleanliness to virtue. They believe, perhaps mistakenly, that their primary task is to hone and polish up the outer child. Only then, does it seem possible to keep body and soul together.

**You realise how many nooks conceal the edible and inedible debris of the day**

## When love dares to speak its name

If some children face being thrown out of home for homosexuality, no wonder they keep their sexuality secret

There are three basic reactions. "Some swear and curse saying, 'What have we done to deserve this?'; some break down and end up crying with their child, which tends to end up in hugs and kisses; others turn to emotional blackmail: 'Oh my God, if you don't change I'm going to have a heart attack and die.'"

Eve Semple-Arnett, a disabled 62-year-old mother of three, has run her helpline called Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays single-handedly from her council flat in Chingford, Essex, since her daughter Linda, aged 30, told her she was homosexual nine years ago. She quickly realised that there were few people parents could turn to for advice when they discover they have a homosexual child.

Mrs Semple-Arnett is only too familiar with the anguished process of self-blaming that many parents go through, thinking that they failed to bring their children up to be sufficiently "masculine" or "feminine". "I think it's a great mistake to jump to that conclusion," she says, "because we all know that there are many boys and girls who do not behave in the way that they are expected — boys that don't like games and girls that do — and yet they grow up heterosexual."

She believes that this kind of thinking can lead to rifts between the parents themselves. "They start to think about things like: was my wife too domineering? Was my

husband a wimp?" Some callers look to child abuse as an "explanation", others ask if their children can be "cured".

Although Mrs Semple-Arnett experiences as worker for the Samaritans had taught her a few things about the world, she missed all the hints about her own daughter's sexuality. "I'm embarrassed to think about it now. She was working in a gay bookshop and in an antique shop run by two lesbians."

"I remember asking her: 'They won't make you into a lesbian will they?' She said: 'Mum, you don't make lesbians, they just are.' After Linda finally told her mother outright she revealed that she had known since she was nine that she was different from other children in some way."

"I asked her why she didn't tell me," Mrs Semple-Arnett says, "and she said that I wouldn't have understood, that I would have thought she was ill or something, and I think she's right."

"When our children are born we bring them up as heterosexual children because we don't know any other way," Mrs Semple-Arnett says. Many parents still perceive homosexuality as a "fault". She has spoken regularly for six years to one woman who still

cannot accept her son's homosexuality. Another woman said she would prefer it if her son had terminal cancer.

"I've come across fathers — and they seem to take it the worst — who react very badly indeed," she says. "One made his son sit on newspaper because he thought he might infect the family with something. Another packed his son's bags and threw him out — that's all too common I'm afraid."

Frank (not his real name), aged 17, one of 30 or so young people attending an evening meeting of the London Gay Teenage Group, was thrown out by his parents eight months ago when he told them he was homosexual.

Now living in care, he is defiant: "If they don't want me then I don't need them." But his experience represents the ultimate fear of young homosexuals in sharing their secret with their parents.

Most of those still closeted have a shrewd idea how their parents would react and seem to have good reason to keep quiet. "They'd excommunicate me," claims one 19-year-old boy, "my father says all gay people should be shot."

Many young homosexuals leave the nest early or even run away to

escape these sentiments. Surprisingly perhaps, nearly half of those at the meeting have told their parents, with varying degrees of support. The majority found their mothers most adaptive.

"Whenever my mum pops out to the shops there'll be a copy of *Gay Times* lying on the bed," says Chris, aged 19, "and she has even tried to matchmake me with another gay boy before — sometimes she's almost too much."

Jill did not find it so easy when her 21-year-old son told her: "I didn't want anything to do with him. I didn't even want to hear his name mentioned. I just wanted him to disappear."

Like many parents Jill found that time was her greatest ally. After 18 months she realised that "trying not to love my son wasn't going to work". Five years on she has fully accepted her son's sexuality and, as evidence of how much can change for the troubled parent of a homosexual child, she now runs a

parents' support group called Acceptance with her husband which meets monthly in her home town of Eastbourne, East Sussex.

She puts the blame for the parents' distress and isolation squarely on social attitudes: "People think that society's view of homosexuality is very tolerant now,

but in reality people are still very prejudiced against gay people and this makes it extremely difficult for the parents and deters them from talking to anyone about it."

Aids has intensified that prejudice in many quarters at the same time as increasing the anxiety of parents and hardening the task of coming out for the child.

Paul Fricker, aged 33, the founder and director of the St Peter's House Aids project in Surrey, receives a lot of enquiries on his helpline from worried parents: "The first thing they seem to think of these days is Aids, as if all gay men had Aids."

"I feel extremely sorry for a lot of young people today having to come out in the teeth of prejudice not only against homosexuality, but also Aids; I see it as a double burden."

Mr Fricker told his mother about his homosexuality after a long period of illness. Fortunately his fear of rejection was not realised: his mother knew already. She has proved a great source of strength: "My mother is insulted in the stress because of my involvement in Aids work."

"I feel so lucky and proud that she accepts me and encourages me in my work. Words cannot express the gratitude I feel."

MARK SIMPSON

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays: 081-523 2910

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Safety in numbers: defying prejudice at a "gay pride" parade

Bargain rates at top hotels



# Walks on the long side

**Robin Neillands heads into the Cévennes**  
on the trail of R.L. Stevenson, just one of the  
delights of the Grande Randonnée

Six hours after we set out down the Robert Louis Stevenson Trail one of our party fell on his face in the main street of Le Bouchet. This had nothing to do with the local hospital, six hours across the hills of the southern Velay under the scorching sun of late summer had brought on heat exhaustion. The following day another member of the group performed the same act in the main square at Pradelles and after that we were going down like ninjapins. This introduced us to one of the rules: if you go on a long walk in France you have to anticipate problems like heat and dust and long daily stages. There are, however, a greater number of advantages.

Long-distance walks are a way to see the country and get back to essentials. They are also great fun but however carefully you plan them there is always an element of challenge. In France they have the advantages of good food and reliable weather anywhere south of the Loire and a host of interesting things to see along the way. Even so, it helps to have a theme or a purpose.

The Robert Louis Stevenson Trail, which takes walkers south from Le Monastier in the Velay to the little hill town of St Jean du Gard, aims to follow the route immortalised by Stevenson in his *Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes*. As long walks go, the trail is not very long (about 120 miles), and will take about ten days of steady plodding on footpaths and mountain tracks through some of the most remote and beautiful country in France.

The trail comes from following in the tracks of the writer, staying in the places he stayed and meeting the descendants of the people he met a hundred years ago. Walkers are still made welcome at the monastery of Notre Dame des Neiges where Stevenson stayed, and M Senac, who runs the hotel at Goudet, is a descendant of the M Senac, hotelier and fencing master, who made Stevenson welcome in 1878.

The trail was set up in 1978 to commemorate the centenary of the Scottish writer's walk. Appropriately, it is marked with blue and white St Andrew's crosses that winds across the open country of the Massif Central and into the Cévennes south of France. It has become one of the most popular long-distance footpaths in Europe, the annual outing for hundreds of committed walkers who go there on private backpacking journeys and in parties organised by specialist holiday companies.

The basis for all long walks in France is the 30,000-mile-long network of the *Grande Randonnée*, the finest network of walking trails in Europe. These trails can vary in length from 30km to the 605km of the GR1, the *Sentier Tour de l'Île de France* which circles Paris, or the 800km of the GR65, the *Sentier St Jacques*, which follows the old Pil-

grim Road to Santiago de Compostela from Le Puy to the Spanish frontier.

The GR network began in the middle of the second world war, and has since expanded into every corner of the countryside under the guidance of the *Fédération Française de la Randonnée Pédestre* (FFRP) and its *Comité National de Sentiers de la Grande Randonnée*.

The FFRP publishes a series of 'Topo-guides', which covers all the long-distance footpaths of France and is now being translated into English. The Topo-guides do more than simply describe the route with words and 1:50,000 scale maps. They explain how to get to the start and provide information on the accommodation, shops, restaurants and attractions to be found en route. If there is a pretty village, an old castle or a beautiful viewpoint near the route of a French footpath, then the footpath will lead the walker to it and the Topo-guide will provide background information on the area and its history.

Walkers in France are not restricted to footpaths. The old canal towpaths, like the one along the Canal du Midi in the Languedoc or the Canal du Nivernais, are excellent for walking, flat and well graded. In the 'causse' country and the Pyrenees walkers can follow *drailles*, the old drove roads, along which sheep and cattle were driven to and from summer pasture, though some, such as the Grande Draille de Languedoc, have now been converted into GR trails.

The basic source of information for the GR network is the IGN (*Institut Géographique National*) map N 903, which illustrates all the GR trails. From this it is easy to make an outline plan for the walk and estimate the degree of difficulty and the equipment required, which can range from shorts and trainers for a spring walk along the Normandy coast to ice axe and crampons for the GR10 along the spine of the Pyrenees anytime outside the hot months of summer. (Walkers heading anywhere high and remote will need more detailed larger scale maps and a knowledge of compass work.) Spring and autumn are the best months for walking in France, when the weather is cooler and the crowds are absent.

The great rule with long-distance walking is not to attempt too much, especially at the start, and to remember that large parts of rural France are remarkably empty of people. This is certainly a boon but it can make it difficult if you run into trouble or out of water.

France is full of classic long-distance walks but the most famous is the Tour de Mont Blanc, a two-week walk round the Mont Blanc massif which begins in Chamonix and runs through France, Switzerland and Italy before returning again to the foot of the Vallée Blanche. This has become very popular and the moun-



Where sheep did safely graze: walkers in the Pyrenees can take advantage of the old drove roads

tain huts that provide most of the accommodation tend to be full in July and August. Wise walkers will take a companion and a small tent.

Less testing is the *Tour de la Chaine des Pys*, a circular walk running to the east of Clermont-Ferrand and taking in the extinct cones of several volcanoes, such as the Puy de Dôme, beautiful towns such as Orcival and spas like Volvic. This fairly short walk of 65 miles will take about a week.

Those who like to take their walks

spiced with history should try the GR3, the *Sentier de la Loire*. The Loire is the longest river in France, running for 600 miles from the Ardèche to the Atlantic near Nantes and is closely followed by the GR3 footpath.

Good long walks are also available in Normandy and Brittany which have the added advantage of proximity for the British walker. The coastal *Sentier de Littoral* runs right round the cliffs and beaches of western France, often on paths once used by

customs officers on the lookout for smugglers. River valleys often provide a good route for footpaths. The GR2 *Sentier de la Seine* is another beautiful and interesting walk, especially along the 125km from Richard Lionheart's Château Galliard at Les Andelys to the ferry port at Le Havre, while those who fancy something really long could step onto the GR36 Manche-Pyrenees footpath beside the ferry port at Ouistreham and follow it clear across Normandy or, if you wish, right across France.

## FINDING YOUR WAY ON THE GRANDE RANDONNEE

- The best source for maps and guides in the UK is Edward Stanford Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP. tel: 071-836 1321. IGN maps and FFRP Topo-guides, in French or English, are also available (mail order only) from McCarty, 15 Highbury Place, London N5 1QP, tel: 071-354 1616.
- The best source in France is the IGN shop at 107 Rue la Boétie, 75008 Paris, tel: (1) 42 25 87 90.
- Guidebooks and maps covering long-distance footpaths and historic trails in France are also published by

Cicerone Press, West Col, Didier et Richard, Moorland Publishing and many more. The most recent guide to the Robert Louis Stevenson Trail is by Alan Castle (Cicerone Press, £7.95).

- Accommodation in rural France can be easily located in the 1992 edition of the Logis de France guide obtainable from the French Government Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL, or good bookshops at £6.50.
- Treks in France are available through a number of companies

including Exploce Worldwide, 1 Fredrick St, Aldershot GU11 1LQ, tel: (0252) 319448; Waymark Holidays, 44 Windsor Rd, Slough SL1 2EL, tel: (0753) 516477; Alternative Travel, 69-71 Banbury Rd, Oxford OX2 6PE, tel: (0865) 310399.

- Long-distance walkers should take everything they might need for the trip. This should include boots, a large water bottle, a shady hat, sun cream and lip salve and lots of pairs of socks. A walking stick will be a comfort. In mountain areas an ice axe can be useful, even in summer.

## Close to our hearths



AT HOME

Michelin map number 989 is the size of a small tablecloth, which is one way of saying that France is a big place. So having decided that you want a property there, the second decision — in some ways more important than all the others you will have to make — concerns where to buy. The wrong decision on location is one of the prime causes of disenchantment among Britons who have bought in France.

The trouble is that most people scout for property while on holiday. The problem with holidays is that they usually happen only once a year, so we build in to our calculations the cost and time involved in getting there. And we regard the journey as part of the fun.

Once you own a house in France, you will start regarding the journey as a damned nuisance. You will want to minimise it, not least because part of the purpose of ownership is to cut out hotel bills. Little point in owning a holiday home, if reaching it involves one or two nights in a hotel.

The best starting point for choosing the location is that you assume a car journey from the French side of the Channel will pass at an average of nearly 100kmh. This represents press-on motoring without having to hire Nigel Mansell and it also assumes a roughly half and half mix of motorway and minor road driving. The latter can drastically affect your speed, and do remember that you are sitting on the 'wrong' side of the car, which severely hinders overtaking. So, non-stop, the southern Dordogne would be seven hours from, say, St Malo whereas southern Brittany would take only about two hours.

The difference matters. A night crossing from the UK generally docks at around 6am French time so you have all day to reach your house, but allowing for two stops of an hour each you could still be arriving quite late: our home south of Bergerac is easy to open up but, for the first couple of times, arriving at a dark and unfamiliar house late at night can be depressing.

Day crossings pose a different problem: unless the quick Dover-Calais route is convenient (and even that involves extra mileage on the French side to most destinations), you will arrive in France early evening. Do you drive through much of the night and sleep it off next day or put in an overnight stop?

I have not of course forgot-

ten aircraft, but few French airfields are directly reachable from British provincial airports. By all means check out flying, but the total time saving may not be great and remember that with most household goods cheaper in Britain, you will want the car boot, and a roof rack, in the early days of ownership.

If you are moving to France for good weather, be realistic: summer is extended in the Loire valley and the Dordogne, but neither area has abolished winter. It snowed in our hamlet last year and frost is far from uncommon. The lush vegetation is part of the Dordogne's attraction, but bear in mind that the colour green is manufactured by rain.

But there is no question that



even southern Brittany has a better climate than Britain, and further south you will be unlucky to hit bad weather on more than a few days each month from May to September. For all the publicity about English expat communities, I still regard the Dordogne and the Lot-et-Garonne to its south as the areas worth the most serious consideration, with the Loire Valley a close third (and only three to four hours from the Channel ports).

PETER BARNARD

NEXT WEEK: What to buy

- On Fridays, *The Times/LBC Last-Minute France Hotline* is your guide to stop-press holiday, travel and rental bargains. On Thursday after 6pm on LBC NEWSTALK 997.3 FM) Angela Rippon in her *Drivetime* programme will talk to a *Times* journalist and preview the last-minute offers available in Friday's paper.

HALF-PRICE FRANCE: cut your holiday costs with these exclusive travel and hotel offers

## Bargain rates at top hotels

DISCOVER the beauty of France in style and comfort this summer and enjoy up to 50 per cent off the room rates at 3- and 4-star hotels courtesy of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

Our exclusive Passport to France offer is available at 100 participating Mercure and Altea hotels for accommodation between June 20 to September 7.

There is no limit to the number of hotels you can choose or to how long you can stay at a particular hotel. The offer is available for any days of the week, although on some days the discount available will be 25 per cent.

Children are welcome. Many hotels participating in this offer have three- or four-bed family rooms where up to two children under 16 sharing with their parents can not only stay free of charge but can also eat breakfast free when their parents choose to take a splendid buffet-style breakfast which, at about FF50 per person, is excellent value.

At a Mercure and Altea hotel in France you could pay as little as FF200 (about £20) per night for a family of four.

hotel Mercure ALTEA

The amount of discount available on this offer will vary between 50 per cent and 25 per cent depending on where and when you choose to stay. Each Mercure and Altea hotel has three price periods which are determined by the level of activity in the local region and to which the discount is applied. The 50 per cent discount applies to the hotels' busiest, and moderately busy dates when the prices are most expensive. The 25 per cent discount applies to the hotels' quieter periods when the prices are already heavily discounted. Some coastal hotels, however, only offer 25 per cent discount.

Details of the prices that apply to your chosen dates and hotels will be advised to you on confirmation of booking. A full list of participating hotels and prices was published in *The Times* last Tuesday and will be repeated on Saturday.

### HOW TO BOOK

TO TAKE advantage of this offer, collect ten differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* between May 31 and June 13. One is on this page today. Attach your tokens to the application form which appeared in *The Times* on June 2, which will be repeated tomorrow and on June 13.

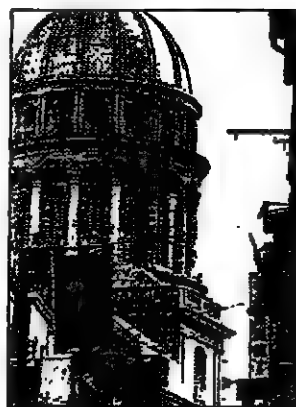
A special telephone number will be published in *The Times* tomorrow for queries on the specific room rate tariff, and the discount available for your chosen hotel(s) and dates.

## Dining via SeaCat

Robin Young explores restaurants around Boulogne, destination of this week's *Times* offer

A HOLIDAY trip to France is like any other invasion. It pays to have your objectives targeted well in advance. Readers taking advantage of the *Times* offer of half-price travel from Folkestone to Boulogne on Hoverspeed's SeaCat catamaran (details below) might be interested in my recent personal reconnaissance of restaurants in the Boulogne area.

The best news is that the Atlantic at Wimereux, five minutes from Boulogne and only 18 miles from Calais, has experienced a renaissance over the past couple of years, resuscitated by Aron and Marie-France Misais, formerly the owners of Keats restaurant in Hampstead, London. The Misais have recruited a gifted and ambitious young chef, Alain Morville, whose menus at FF110 and 190 (children's



Boulogne cathedral

FFR80) should bring the crowds back to the large first-floor dining room. We had an exquisite terrine of leeks, excellent *hure de saumon*, and impeccable halibut with a light passionfruit sauce on our recent tour of inspection.

The industrious M Morville is also responsible for the simpler-style cooking for the ground floor bar-brasserie from where you can watch the SeaCats and ferries plying to and from Boulogne. The At-

lantic's telephone is 010 33 21 32 41 01.

The Atlantic's former chef and maître-d' from the good old days are at the Relais de la Brocane, just inland at Wimille (tel: 010 33 21 83 19 31). Claude Janssen's cooking, which is light and delicate and uses local ingredients deliciously, has been recognised with a well-deserved Michelin star. The lunchtime menu is likely to be about FF180. On the card, reckon about £35 a head, but it is well worth it.

On the other side of Boulogne, a couple of miles toward Paris, the Hostellerie de la Rivière at Pont-de-Briques (010 33 21 32 22 81) is a restaurant with rooms which retains a Michelin star. The Martins, father and son, cook with gusto and Mme Martin has charge of the redecorated dining room.

My favourite restaurant in Boulogne is the unpretentious and tiny L'Huître, modestly installed behind a fish shop on Place Lorraine (010 33 21 31 35 27). If that is full, try La Liegoise at 10 Rue Monsigny. Chez Jules on Place Dalton, or the Restaurant des Pêcheurs d'Étaples at 31 Grande Rue.

### FAMILY TRIP BY SEACAT FROM £130

COLLECT three Passport to France Travel Tokens from *The Times* or *The Sunday Times* to take advantage of our offer of half-price travel on Hoverspeed's SeaCat from Folkestone to Boulogne this summer. A token appears on this page today and further tokens will be printed in *The Times* each day until Wednesday, June 10.

To book, phone Hoverspeed on 0304-212097 for a brochure, fare information and a reservation. You will be quoted a booking reference number. Enter this on your application form (published in *The Times* yesterday), and send

it with the tokens, together with full payment, to Hoverspeed by June 30. The offer applies to standard fares only, before September 30 1992, and excludes outbound and return travel on Fridays and Saturdays from July 10 until September 5. Full terms and conditions were in yesterday's *Times*. Using this offer the normal return fare of £292 for a car and four adults will be only £146. A car with two adults will cost £122 return, or £130 with two children as well, on certain sailings. Foot passengers are £22 return (£11 return for a child).



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## MEDIA MOLE

ROSS Perot, the billionaire Texas businessman with his eye on the White House, has lost no time in turning to the media for succour and support.

Two video cassettes — *A Conversation With Ross Perot* and *Ross Perot: Straight Talk*, based on interviews done for American television — are being rush released to woo those voters who know little or nothing about Mr Perot, his politics or his past.

But Mr Perot is not stopping there. He is also negotiating with NBC to buy substantial amounts of television advertising time during the Summer Olympics in Barcelona. The network reportedly still has about \$80 million (\$45 million) worth of time to sell during the Games, and the industry's insiders are saying they'd be only too happy to do a deal with him. So every time America wins a gold medal, will it be cut to Perot?

ARNOLD Schwarzenegger, whose career was launched by his biceps but sustained by his shrewdness, is on the brink of deciding his next major picture: but not without an eye to the future.

The Terminator is reportedly on the brink of making a romantic comedy called *The \$2 million Tip* for Tri-Star. If rewrites to the script work. The story is of a married traffic cop, to be played by Mr Schwarzenegger, who goes into a coffee shop and, when he finds he does not have enough money for the tip, gives the waitress half his lottery ticket.

Needless to say, the couple win, and fall in love, although history does not yet relate whether the policeman will actually

leave his wife, as such an ungentlemanly act might not sit too kindly with Mr Schwarzenegger's political ambitions.

Perhaps that is why he has not finally committed himself to making the film. One of the alternatives is *Last Action Hero*, which apparently does not involve such moral niceties.



Brown: Wenner's target

WORD has it that Tina Brown, the current queen of American magazine editors, had better watch out. She has incurred the wrath of Jann Wenner, publisher of *Rolling Stone* magazine, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary as the prophet of the rock and roll generation.

In the June edition of *Vanity Fair*, the magazine she edits, Ms Brown published a fairly unflattering portrait of Mr Wenner which detailed, among other failings, the publisher's alleged drug problems, extravagance and indolence.

Mr Wenner could apparently just about tolerate those allegations, but he drew the line at a story reported by the writer Stephen Schiff about the time Mr Wenner, while interviewing a well-known writer, excused himself for a moment, turned, and threw up into the wastepaper basket beside him.

The 46-year-old publisher is reported to be incensed by the story, which he insists is untrue. Perhaps he will take his revenge in the form of a critical profile of the British-born and educated Ms Brown in one of the early editions of *Men's Journal*, the magazine he is about to launch.

GEOFFREY WANSELL



Sch... you know who

# Dark doings in Ambridgrad

Soon, the radio soap opera will be alive, well, and living in Russia.

Alice Thomson reports on the BBC's latest steppe

Opening scene: a crumbling apartment block in Moscow. An old babushka is sitting on the steps. Cut to plumber and his wife having an argument on the fourth floor, while a child screams.

This is not another documentary about urban deprivation in the former Soviet Union, but a typical scene from the latest new export from the West, the soap opera.

Next January, Russia's first radio soap will take to the air in two 15-minute episodes a week. When *The Archers* began 40 years ago it was seen as a way of teaching farmers about modern herbicides and agriculture. Instead of farming, the Russian soap will take business as a main theme but, as with *The Archers*, the human elements will be the mainstay of the programme.

The still-unnamed programme comes from the BBC World Service, and is part of a project known as the Marshall Plan of the Mind. The brainchild of John Tusa, the World Service managing editor, it aims to air ideas, knowledge and skill into the former Soviet Union.

"It will be in the vanguard of a package of financial programmes aimed to help people understand issues like privatisation, redundancy, business planning, freemarket prices and the black market: this is capitalism, war and all," says Corinna Furse, the project leader. The soap will discuss basic issues while teaching some of the skills of radio drama before they take over production.

The main problem so far has been finding writers. The Russians have never had a series, let alone a soap — only one show has ever run in the late 1970s — so trying to explain the concept proved almost impossible. In the end the editor of *Echo Moscow*, a new alternative station, suggested a group of six political satirists who might be able to write the idea.

Liz Rigby, consultant to the



Carrying soap to Moscow: Liz Rigby (left) and Corinna Furse, moving spirits behind the westernisation of Russian listening habits

project, was ideally equipped for the task. Now a writer and presenter of *Gardener's World*, she was a former editor of *The Archers*. She spends five days a month in Moscow. Although Ms Rigby wanted the writers to come up with the ideas, she had to steer them in the right direction. "There is a tradition of long-winded drama in Russia, while soap is quick and snappy. They wondered how you could have an argument in less than half an hour, thought that any play must have a definite ending and were baffled by the idea of the cliff-hanging finish," she says.

But they learnt fast. By her second visit they had got the arguments down to three minutes.

She left the writers to invent the characters, but they kept using pre-existing folk heroes and cartoon

characters, the Russian equivalents of Colonel Blimp, Popeye and Andy Capp. Eventually they settled on an initial cast of ten: an interfering babushka (grandmother); a plumber who is always drunk and his factory worker wife; a crusading journalist; a wealthy businessman with a shady past; a nerdy intellectual and his wife; a student and an eternally optimistic entrepreneur. There may also be a Western character who tries to exploit them. Ms Rigby hopes to find Russian actors by holding soap workshops.

She stresses that the theme is everyday Russian life, that she has no political message and is not trying to woo people to capitalism. "Soap is a very delicate mechanism," Ms Rigby says. "You can't put too much weight on its back or

it will break." But she also wants to introduce the topics of racism, anti-semitism, AIDS, nationalism and black market racketeering into the story lines.

The new programme is unlikely to be inundated with letters complaining about too much sex and violence. "Violence is everywhere. Westerners can't even travel in taxis any more because they are mugged so often," Ms Rigby says. "My interpreter says that there is not much sex on state television, but they often discuss it. Their apartments are so cramped they can't be too squeamish. Abortion is a form of contraception. If we want to be realistic we have to include it all."

Ms Rigby is already looking for a Russian editor and producer. The

next stage will be finding the equipment to mount the show locally. The programme will also have a very tight three-week schedule: the situation in Russia is changing so quickly that the three-month turn around British soaps enjoy would be foolish.

"I have become so attached to the programme I don't want to totally dissociate myself," Ms Rigby says, "but it is their soap and it should develop a character of its own."

"Every soap in Britain has to have some kind of morality. On *The Archers* the word listeners always used was 'come-uppance'. If a character behaved badly listeners expected them to suffer. But this attitude doesn't exist in Russia. Everything there is in moral chaos. They can have more fun, because they will have no limits."

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For an application form contact (quote ref. 10166/T and enclose s.a.e.) Personnel Unit, BBC Plymouth, Seymour Road, Mannamend, Plymouth PL3 5BD.

Application forms to be returned by June 22nd.

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# EC in shock horror tabloid outrage

If some British newspapers are to be believed, the bureaucrats of Brussels are dangerously mad. Michael Dynes points to the truth behind the headlines

Ever since Britain joined the European Community in 1973, some British newspapers, particularly among the tabloids, have ridiculed European integration in a seemingly endless stream of stories made up of a potent cocktail of truth, half truth, and downright fabrication.

Few newspapers have been inhibited about highlighting the more absurd creations of EC policy, such as the bloated Common Agricultural Policy, or challenging the logic of European integration, as in the case of the Maastricht Treaty's designs for greater economic and political union.

But it is the European Commission's harmonisation proposals that have become the staple diet of this country's popular newspaper coverage of Europe, leading to headlines such as the *Daily Star's* in 1988 announcing a "1992 Euro shocker", and warning of "Deeper clothes, food and power: our athletes to join Euro-team: our troops to take orders in German".

Commission officials in London and Brussels have often complained bitterly about what they regard as the lopsided way in which many tabloid journalists, and some of their broadsheet colleagues, cover EC issues, although few expect the practice will change.

Indeed, since the BBC television series *Yes Minister* had a handful of unflattering Brussels bureaucrats attempting to rename the British sausage an "emulsified high-fat offal tube", the image of EC officials embarking on ridiculous interventions in the British way of life has become part of folklore.

Occasionally, however, there are demerits of truth to the image. In the case of the recent EC directive

governing toy safety, for example, fears were expressed that the directive would prevent Oxfam from selling home-made toys because they would fail to meet the new EC-wide health and safety standards. Most popular newspapers presented the story as being another EC intervention designed to undermine our traditional way of doing things. But few gave sufficient prominence to the universally acknowledged need to prevent the sale of toys made from toxic and other dangerous substances.

More often than not, however, such stories are simply fallacious. Last year's rash of stories alleging that the commission was trying to prohibit the sale of prawn-flavoured crisps provoked an uproar in Britain, the only country where they are sold, with headlines denouncing Martin Bangemann, the internal market commissioner as "The Sour Kraut Who Wants To Ban Our Crisps".

But the claims were based on a somewhat warped interpretation of the facts. Because different countries use different additives in different products, the commission had drawn up a list of permissible food additives, so that a product sold in one member state could be sold in all others.

However, the British government had failed to include the particular additive needed to manufacture prawn-flavoured crisps in its submission to Brussels. Consequently, prawn-flavoured crisps could not be legally manufactured in the EC until the additive had been added to the list.

The oversight was the British government's, not the commission's. But that fact was not recorded, and few journalists were prepared to risk the wrath of their



Euro-horror: the European Commission's bureaucracy, however well-intentioned, has given the British press a natural target

newsdesks by ignoring the old adage: "Never let the facts get in the way of a good story."

Much of the difficulty faced by Brussels officials in getting what they would regard as less jaundiced coverage of EC affairs by the British press is a direct consequence of the tedious nature of a great deal of the commission's work, and the fact that it has been saddled, despite the widespread image to the contrary, with a comparatively open legislative process.

Since the landmark Cassis de Dijon ruling in 1979, which laid down that any product legally sold

in one member state can be legally sold in any other, the commission has been busy drawing up common EC standards to ensure that national regulations do not inhibit the free movement of goods and services across frontiers.

Moreover, following the decision to create a genuine single European market by the end of December this year, the commission was granted the authority to abandon its traditional approach to harmonisation, which required years of tortuous negotiations to arrive at a single product standard, in favour of a strategy based on selective

harmonisation where necessary to cut their laws between noon and 2pm on Sundays.

Perhaps the classic British misunderstanding about the nature of the commission's drive for harmonisation occurred with the attempt to lay down common standards for lawn-mower noise emissions. The legislation was designed partly to meet British objections that its exports were being excluded from continental markets by spurious noise emission standards. But, in the fertile minds of some British journalists, the story became a ludicrous tale about the

EC attempting to force the British to cut their laws between noon and 2pm on Sundays.

Similarly, the introduction of tachographs in lorries, the infamous "spy-in-the-cab" designed to monitor the number of hours worked by drivers, was portrayed by many British newspapers as a conspiracy by Brussels officials to carry out unnecessary surveillance.

Rarely was it pointed out that increased pressure to improve road safety would have required the introduction of the monitoring device anyway, regardless of Britain's membership of the EC.

Likewise, the sale of French UHT milk was portrayed as a plot by Brussels to abolish the tradition of doorstep milk. In fact, Britain was facing legal action for illegally keeping French products off the market in this country. The scare stories were the work of the dailies, which feared that the market was about to be flooded by "alien" French long-life milk. But it was the newspapers which elevated the dairies' fears to the level of truth.

The habit of ridiculing the commission's endeavours is now so ingrained in the British press that Brussels is regularly held responsible for the work of other international standardisation bodies. It may be the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe which is responsible for drawing up a list of E-routes (roads) in Europe, but it is the commission that is accused of unnecessary intervention.

Even attempts by "barmy Brussels bureaucrats" to make provision for the peculiarities of the EC's diverse national cultures usually backfire. During the drafting of a directive on jams, which was based on a list of fruits, it was discovered that the Portuguese make jam from carrots. Rather than prohibit an ancient practice, a carrot was defined as a fruit for the purposes of the directive — and the British press had a field day.

Critics of the commission's strategy insist that harmonisation is unacceptable because of its "pernicious levelling". It should not be forgotten, however, that it was the national governments, not the commission, which set the drive for harmonisation in motion.

That process is unlikely to be finished when Britain inaugurates the single European market at midnight on December 31. The commission's attempt to force 12 disparate markets into one will continue to provide the tabloids with plenty of ammunition with which they can continue to snipe at the mundane nuts and bolts of the single market.

## Shaking off the image handicap

A new guide suggests that people with disabilities need a more understanding approach from the media

A new American television advertisement for Levis jeans features a young man in a wheelchair performing "wheelies" and other complex manoeuvres with great exhilaration. Similar positive images of disabled people can be found in transatlantic commercials for Ford cars and McDonalds where a deaf couple communicate in sign language while enjoying their hamburgers.

The trend has pleased Dr Stephen Duckworth, the founder of Disability Matters and himself a wheelchair user. "The companies are not doing this for altruistic reasons. It makes commercial sense for them. Fifteen per cent of the adult population both here and in the States are disabled."

"There have been accusations of exploitation but I'd rather be exploited as an active consumer like everyone else than pitied as a passive object of charity."

An increasing number of Britain's 6.2 million people with disabilities share Dr Duckworth's annoyance and anger at the way they are portrayed in the media. "First there is the confusion of disability and illness so you get documentaries and articles about dramatic cures or medical advances," he says. "But these may only be relevant to a handful of people and anyway the general health of most disabled people is as good as that of anyone else."

"Then you get the charity image in which they are seen as tragic victims with a problem that makes them depen-

dent or there are these triumph over tragedy stories where somebody is a hero because they can carry out a normal daily activity like shopping while being a poor pathetic cripple."

These notions of illness and dependency not only affect employers' attitudes, making it harder to get a job and be economically independent, Dr Duckworth says, but they may also be internalised so that disabled people start thinking they are victims.

"There is a political movement now which argues that there is nothing wrong with us, we are as perfect as anyone else but we are disabled by our environment. The reason I cannot go on a bus is not because I cannot walk but because the bus is not designed properly." The "cure", Dr Duckworth suggests, is to change the features of the environment and the attitudes that exclude the disabled either actively or passively so that others no longer feel shy or embarrassed but happy to be with them.

Dr Duckworth, whose management consultancy runs disability awareness training programmes, is an associate of

the Employers' Forum on Disability which last week launched a guide on the subject aimed at broadcasters and other media.

Funded by Telethon, whose producers and presenters will use it in the fund-raising marathon next month, *Disability Etiquette* includes advice on language and interviewing techniques as well as warnings about inap-



Filed away: but language problems persist

propriate behaviour and stereotyping. This includes the idea of disabled people as "eternal children, burdens on society and other individuals, marginal participants in community life and asexual beings incapable of achieving normal relationships."

Terminology here, as in other sensitive areas such as race or gender, remains a contentious issue. "Handicap"

may be offensive, "cripple" certainly is, but there is a real difference between "the disabled" and "disabled people".

Alan Wild, the employee relations director at Grand Metropolitan and a member of the Forum, believes there is. "If you use the term 'the disabled' you lump together a group of people who individually are as different as anyone else. The second term or the phrase 'people with disabilities' focuses on the person rather than the disability. What we should celebrate is diversity."

Grand Metropolitan launched its media awards four years ago for the most positive portrayal of someone with a disability in sport by television, radio or the press. Mr Wild says: "Look what has happened with

women or ethnic minorities over the past ten years. The same should now be happening with disabled people."

Nichola Lyon, who wrote the guide, says: "This is not about political correctness or people not liking the way they are portrayed. If you are constantly told someone is pitiable then when you meet them it is very hard to behave naturally. You might mean to

be kind but it often comes over as patronising."

The Matthew Trust, which campaigns for the rights of the mentally disordered in secure hospitals, also believes that scrupulous use of language by the media is vital. It has been corresponding with executives at the BBC for nearly a year about the description of Broadmoor as a prison in a news story.

Peter Thompson, the Trust's director, says: "There are 1,700 patients in special hospitals. If you call somewhere a prison, the people in it are by definition prisoners to be punished rather than patients to be treated."

"Although the majority have been convicted of an offence, the act has been caused by their mental condition. I don't think it makes things easier for them. In fact once you get out it's probably better as far as society's concerned to have been a criminal rather than mentally ill. But it's a moral issue, it's a question of truth."

Disabled people who think they have been wronged by the media can complain directly to the organisation concerned. The Matthew Trust recently surveyed the system at 17 national newspapers by getting a woman with multiple sclerosis to telephone asking for the readers' ombudsman. Only at *Today* and *The Independent* was she directly successful. The Trust sent copies of its findings to the editors. He says: "I think things have improved since."

LIZ GILL

## Independents frozen out of the picture

The new age of British TV is bad news for freelance producers

The gloves are off in British television. The sale last week of coverage of football international to the strange bedfellows — BSkyB and the BBC — follows their capture of the Premier League rights. These are the consequences of the upheaval in the ecology of British television which many of us warned would follow the Broadcasting Act of 1990.

But the shock and horror expressed by ITV at these developments are inconsistent with their own behaviour towards independents, the only people supposed to have benefited from the upheaval.

Independent producers have been on the margins of British television, while the broadcasters had their own large-scale means of production. The arrival of Channel 4 as a publisher of independent work began inauspiciously, with Jeremy Isaacs announcing even before he had the job that he expected independents to produce no more than 15 per cent of the channel's programmes.

That the independent sector came up with half the channel's output from the start surprised everyone. It led to an exodus of producers and technicians from established broadcasters. The new independents were drawn by what they imagined to be a mix of creative freedom and economic rewards no longer available in existing structures. The BBC was threatened by political pressure from the government. ITV's advertising monopoly was under attack and revenues were falling in the recession. Both faced the unwelcome prospect of cable and satellite Channel 5.

Channel 4 acting as a publisher appealed to the Thatcher government as a lean alternative to ITV's "last bastion of trade unionism", and to the BBC's bureaucracy. This coincided with the lobby by independents who felt unfairly frozen out by both broadcasters. The requirement that both ITV and BBC allot 25 per cent of their programmes to independents was written into law.

Since then they have treated the independent sector with the cautious welcome of prosperous neighbours to a hotel for young offenders. But it is the neighbours who are doing the stealing.

Market forces have not been kind to independents. Most programmes commissioned by ITV companies have been on terms weighted against the programme makers. Budgets have been

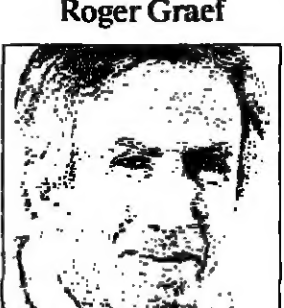
tight because they involve real cash, not the use of studio and staff already paid for. If the ITV company sold the programme on to the network for a larger sum it kept the difference.

Foreign sales offer independents no better deal. ITV, BBC and Channel 4 insist on the right to distribute programmes themselves. They keep up to 50 per cent of sales as commission and expenses. On programmes they have funded entirely the remaining 50 per cent is split 70-30 — against the independent. Consistent with the values of the new age of British television, the ownership of copyright is also vested with the broadcaster, not those who made the programme.

ITV companies and independents have been locked in combat over these issues for several years, and the argument recently came to a

VIEWPOINT

Roger Graef



head in the proposals for the new Channel 3 network. Independents wanted direct access to the scheduler, whose role as a single commissioning editor for the network seemed a way around the onerous terms they previously faced. But the new compromise — under review by the Office of Fair Trading — remains anti-competitive: they can offer programmes directly to the new scheduler but must make them in conjunction with one of the 15 franchise holders. On such programmes the franchise holders are enjoined not to make a profit, but the scale of their permitted "handling charge" is unclear.

One consequence of this battle has been to drive many independents into a corner, and some out of business. Two new ITV franchise holders intend to act

as publishers, but plan to deal only with a few established independents. There are simply far too many companies and not enough commissions.

Meanwhile, uncertainty at the BBC about the future has left many commissioning decisions up in the air. Channel 4 is toughening its already formidable terms of trade and keeping budgets to a minimum.

Executives and commissioning editors on salaries are seemingly unaware of the debilitating effect of their hesitation on those whose creative energy they expect to draw on when the moment suits them. Many independents who had no previous experience as freelancers simply were not prepared for the long gaps between jobs — psychologically or financially.

To tide them over, the only resources open to independents should be the value of their ideas and the possible resale of their finished programmes. American independents gained a solid foothold against the networks when the secondary market for their programmes was discovered. Known as syndication, it involved "bicycling" prints and tapes to smaller stations which used them as a cheap source of popular programming.

The impression of American television as a hall of mirrors on which ancient shows such as *I Love Lucy* appear on a dozen channels is correct: repeats are the staple fare of both cable and terrestrial stations, thus eroding the networks' share. ITV plans to avoid a similar fate by controlling rights to British repeats for the next ten years, with an option for a further five. ITV sees this as a sensible move to avoid competing against its own programmes on rival channels.

Independents are furious: more revenue will be lost in the negative cause of defeating BSkyB and Channel 5, rather than being invested in other programmes.

Viewership in America has begun to decline. The same is happening in Britain. Most viewers are not willing to sit through endless repeats or identical copies of formulaic game shows and serials. The best way for ITV and the BBC to hold on to viewers is through a healthy supply of original and attractive programmes. That now depends on the confidence and security to plan ahead, and avoid playing safe merely to survive.

Its radicalism long gone, *Time Out's* success has proved evasive for other city magazines

## Listings without the sting

By most objective criteria it is an unqualified success. Although audited figures are not yet available, *Time Out*, the London listings weekly, has been enjoying regular sales of more than 100,000 for the last three months.

There is not much resemblance, however, between today's fat professional product and the lively, fold-out poster "underground" magazine which Tony Elliott founded 24 years ago with a £70 loan from his aunt. And this evolution bodes poorly for the dozen or so *Time Out* wannabes in Britain's provincial cities.

When Stephen Keane, the editor of the rival *City Limits*, compares *Time Out* dismissively to "telephone directory", Mr Elliott, aged 43, probably takes it as a compliment. The watchdog in *Time Out* Publications has become information, in its rawest data form.

Mr Elliott wants to turn his company into an electronic publishing business which re-

packages its products for different media. By the end of the decade, he forecasts, subscribers will access information on the *Time Out* database by computer and phone.

The weekly magazine is now only part (albeit the largest part) of a global enterprise with an annual turnover of £12 million. Mr Elliott's strategy revolves around guides. Basic listings information can be recycled through a variety of *Time Out* publications, such as *Eating and Drinking*, *Student Guide* and *Shops*

and *Services*. A London diary is planned for the autumn, while guides to the city are available from Filofax and — the latest technology — on Sony Data Discman.

As well as London, *Time Out* publishes guides to Paris, New York, Barcelona and Amsterdam, where it is a shareholder in a listings magazine which sells 9,000 copies a month. Projects in the pipeline include more city guides and a new magazine for students of English as a Foreign Language (EFL).



Tony Elliott: plans to form an electronic listings empire

Where does this leave the core product, the weekly magazine? John Morrish, who edited *Time Out* for two years until last February, wanted to boost news, to make *Time Out* into a crusading platform for London issues. "My great disappointment was that I couldn't get anyone to buy covers with news. Even on subjects like dangerous foodstuffs, they had to have a heavy information bias."

Mr Elliott makes no apologies for his direction. *Time Out* remains "the leading European city magazine, the best magazine of its kind in the world," he says. "If it is less hysterical about social and political issues, that is also true of society as a whole. Weekly articles about homeless people would not serve a lot of people. But if we didn't have them once in a while, it would be a disaster."

After enjoying a pre-eminent position in London for more than two decades, *Time Out* is at last attracting competition on its own terms from a

revitalised *City Limits*. In other parts of Britain, city magazines have also travelled *Time Out's* path from iconoclastic radicalism to safe interviews with stars. But none has London's population base nor its range of attractions. Most are struggling.

One of the best regarded, the ten-year-old *Venue*, based in Bristol and Bath, closed its Cardiff-based namesake last year. Manchester's *City Life*, formerly owned by a co-operative, went into liquidation in 1989 but found salvation in the arms of the Guardian-owned *Manchester Evening News*, and now sells up to 16,000 copies a fortnight. In Edinburgh and Glasgow, *The List*, now seven years old, claims 12,000 sales a fortnight without being "a huge money earner". Regional attempts to attract much national advertising, however, look doomed unless the magazines, like *Time Out*, can shed their alternative images.

ANDREW LYCETT



# Executive class to law

Some years ago, a woman fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives (ILEX) was acting for a pilot whose helicopter had crashed at Biggin Hill in southeast London. At issue was whether the pilot had heard the radio operator reporting the presence in his vicinity of a light plane that did not have a radio.

This particular legal executive managed to wangle permission to sit in the cockpit of a plane as it came in to land. After listening to radio control and all the interference, she was able to brief counsel from her own experience about how difficult it was to hear everything that was said.

For those who want to obtain a professional qualification while in a paid job, the career of legal executive is one to consider. Employed mainly in solicitors' offices, government departments and legal departments of large organisations, legal executives do much the same sort of work as solicitors. However, a partner in the firm (who must be a solicitor) is ultimately responsible for any work undertaken on behalf of a client.

Although in some offices, particularly the smaller ones, legal executives deal with a variety of work, in general they tend to specialise in one particular aspect. This might be civil litigation, criminal litigation, property transactions, debt collecting or matrimonial cases.

The job involves getting out and

The legal executive qualification opens the profession to non-graduates, as Joan Llewelyn Owens reports

about as well as paperwork in the office. Often a lot of research is necessary, such as visiting the site of an accident. Legal executives see clients, brief barristers, prepare documents and have limited rights of audience in the courts and in tribunals.

The minimum requirements for becoming a legal executive are four GCSE passes (grades A-C), including English. In 1989 an introductory stage of examination, the Preliminary Certificate in Legal Studies, was introduced for those who do not have the required GCSEs.

Anyone with the required qualifications can take the examinations. A few full-time courses are available but most students attend part-time courses or pursue a home-study course.

Part one of the membership examination provides an introduction to the legal system of England and Wales and covers essential law and practice encountered during the early years of employment.

Part two of the exam provides an opportunity to specialise. Students have to pass four examination papers, three in law and one in legal practice. Each part requires a

minimum of two years' part-time study. At the age of 25, after at least five years in qualifying employment, including two consecutive years as a qualified member, and passing special examinations, legal executives may become fellows of the institute.

From 1993, the only non-graduates eligible to train as solicitors will be fellows of the institute. ILEX's examinations count towards the academic stage of a solicitor's training. Fellows do not need to undertake the two-year training contract required of graduates.

Trevor Sterling, 25, is a fellow of the institute, employed by Rowley Ashworth, a firm of solicitors in Wimbledon, southwest London, where he deals mainly with personal injury accident compensation cases. After leaving school at 17 with four O levels, he found a job with Rowley Ashworth as an outdoor clerk, which meant that he was out of the office all day, issuing writs and summonses, obtaining appointments for hearings, and so on.

After a year, he assisted a legal executive in the office and then

persuaded the firm to let him train as a legal executive himself.

Given half a day off each week to attend classes, he successfully completed the institute membership examinations. "My ultimate goal is to become a solicitor," he says. "But before I can sit the solicitor's finals I have to do three examinations, to cover the subjects I did not choose as part of my fellowship examinations."

He studies at the weekend and in the evenings, and says that it is not an easy option. "You are making decisions for people and a wrong decision can have a significant effect."

His firm specialises in acting for people claiming compensation for work-related injuries. Clients are usually helped financially by their unions. Industrial accidents may involve defective machinery or claims of repetitive strain injury.

At any one time, Mr Sterling handles various stages of between 200 and 300 cases. For this, he has the support of a secretary and a court clerk, while assistants within the firm deal with certain interlocutory (pre-trial) aspects. He covers the south London area. "So far as this work is concerned, no distinction is made between legal executives and solicitors," he says. "I am supervised by a partner, but no more so than an assistant solicitor."

● The Institute of Legal Executives, Kempston Manor, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 7AB



Law track: Trevor Sterling, a fellow of the institute, is studying to fulfil his ambition to be a solicitor

## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS



### Health Information for Nottingham Teenagers

Do you enjoy a challenge? Are you looking for a new career development? Do you want to be a part of a new model of creative working? HINT is working towards the opening of BASE 51.

Base 51 is a new, exciting development in Nottingham and is to be a full time drop-in centre for young people. The structure of the centre is an independent and autonomous project drawing on a multi-agency base of support and funding. The centre will be targeted at all young people, aged between 12 and 25, of all races, sex, and regardless of their sexuality or ability, who have limited access to, or use of, existing social, recreational and/or health services. Counselling, recreational, legal and educational services, together with specialised health services will be provided. HINT is currently looking for the following staff for BASE 51:

#### CENTRE MANAGER £17898-£19461p.a.

We are seeking a dynamic imaginative manager who can lead a multi-agency team in creating and developing this new centre. Your duties will include professional guidance and supervision of staff in the centre and overall responsibility for the programmes and use of the centre. You will be responsible to the Director of the project for the maintenance of service provision, management of relevant budgets and various programmes within the centre. Other duties will include identifying, responding and acting upon the overall and individual staff training needs, preparing staff roles and promotion of the centre's work. You will be required in all aspects of work to be committed to the centre's Equal Opportunities policy and actively develop the policy.

Proven managerial ability is essential together with understanding specific needs of young people and the ability and desire to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team. An understanding of budgets, organising and facilitating training sessions and devising methods of monitoring and evaluation are desirable but not essential. Qualifications relevant to the post or formal training in a relevant area is desirable. Please quote ref: CE/THC/2/123.

HINT welcomes applications from all areas of the community. Base 51 is a fully accessible building. For the job descriptions and application forms please telephone Chief Executive's Personnel Officer, on Nottm (0602) 823378 (24 hour answerphone) quoting the appropriate job reference. Closing date 22 June.

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#### ADMINISTRATION/ FINANCE OFFICER £16545-£17529p.a.

Required to ensure all financial and administrative tasks are carried out with the aims and objectives of HINT, and that systems are in place to enable the monitoring and evaluation of the centre. You will be part of a multi-disciplinary team and responsible to the centre manager. Your duties will include keeping financial records, maintaining accounts, monitoring staff payroll and ensuring all legal requirements associated with HINT are dealt with. Proven financial and budgetary skills and ability to develop accounting systems, management systems and administrative systems for the centre are essential.

An understanding of fundraising for charities, supervising and experience of working in a setting aimed at providing for young people are desirable but not essential. You will be required in all aspects of work to be committed to the centre's Equal Opportunities policy and to actively develop the policy. Please quote reference: CE/THC/3/123.



The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) was established under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to deal with nature conservation issues relating to Great Britain, the United Kingdom and International aspects.

Applications are invited for the following post:

#### DIRECTOR, AQUATIC & EARTH SCIENCES

The Director will be responsible for the overall management of the Aquatic and Earth Sciences Divisions within JNCC, whose main areas of work cover aquatic, marine and coastal conservation, pollution and earth sciences. He/she will commission and manage research programmes, publications and the dissemination of results.

The Director will also be responsible for strategic planning and policy development in the Aquatic and Earth Sciences, will provide advice to the Committee, to Government and to other bodies and will provide a UK lead where appropriate.

Applicants should have demonstrable relevant experience to lead the work area concerned and have a thorough knowledge of nature conservation issues.

Experience of managing scientific programmes is required along with a proven record of published scientific work at a national/international level.

Considerable experience in personnel and resource management is desirable as is a broad knowledge of Government and voluntary conservation sectors.

The post is graded at the Civil Service Open Grade 6 and is a permanent appointment. Secondment from an existing employer would be considered.

Candidates should ideally have held a full clean driving licence for not less than two years. Salary £26,622 - £34,667 dependent upon experience.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from Mrs G. Lyves, (Ref. 10692), JNCC, 5th Floor, Montebank House, City Road, Peterborough PE1 1JY. Telephone (0733) 6866 Ext. 4211. Closing date: 10 July 1992.

JNCC is an equal opportunities organisation.

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All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

## SECRETARY

### ARMY AND NAVY CLUB - PALL MALL

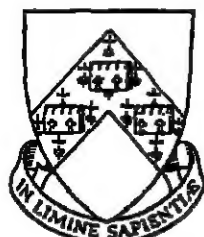
The Army and Navy Club, St James's, is a Club for serving and retired officers of Her Majesty's Forces.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified men or women to succeed the present Secretary on his retirement at the end of 1992.

Working to the Club Committee, the principal responsibilities include the day to day running and the overall administration, financial and catering aspects of the Club. The successful candidate will have a sound management and administrative background at senior level in the Services, industry or the public field. Skills will include communication at all levels, financial acumen, catering experience, negotiating expertise and a keen intellect. The preferred age is under 55. A salary in the region of £35,000 together with other benefits is envisaged subject to experience and negotiation.

Interested candidates should apply to The Secretary, Army and Navy Club, 36 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JN for an application form. The closing date for completed application forms together with curriculum vitae is Friday 3 July 1992. Envelopes should be marked "Confidential".

## UNIVERSITY OF YORK Vice-Chancellor



The University of York invites confidential nominations and applications for the appointment of Vice-Chancellor, to succeed Professor Berrick Saul who will retire in September 1993 after fourteen years in the office. The University is being advised on this appointment by Saxton Bampfylde International plc.

Persons interested in being considered for this appointment or wishing to suggest possible candidates are invited to write in confidence to Anthony Saxton (Chairman), Saxton Bampfylde International plc, 35 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9JA (Fax 071 222 0489, Tel 071 799 1433).

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# MAKING

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**WINNING MOVE**

*By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent*

This position is from the game Alekhine - Tartakower, London 1932. How can white make best use of his passed pawn on a7?

*Solution below.*

The diagram shows a chessboard with White pieces on a7, b7, c7, d7, e7, f7, g7, h7, a6, b6, c6, d6, e6, f6, g6, h6, a5, b5, c5, d5, e5, f5, g5, h5, a4, b4, c4, d4, e4, f4, g4, h4, a3, b3, c3, d3, e3, f3, g3, h3, a2, b2, c2, d2, e2, f2, g2, h2, a1, b1, c1, d1, e1, f1, g1, h1 and Black pieces on a8, b8, c8, d8, e8, f8, g8, h8, a7, b7, c7, d7, e7, f7, g7, h7, a6, b6, c6, d6, e6, f6, g6, h6, a5, b5, c5, d5, e5, f5, g5, h5, a4, b4, c4, d4, e4, f4, g4, h4, a3, b3, c3, d3, e3, f3, g3, h3, a2, b2, c2, d2, e2, f2, g2, h2, a1, b1, c1, d1, e1, f1, g1, h1. White has a passed pawn on a7. The solution is to move the pawn to a6, which is a winning move.



## BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax (95248) 6.30 Breakfast News (42399267)  
9.05 Perfect Strangers: African comedy series (5653170)  
9.30 Today's Gourmet: Chef Jacques Pepin prepares tomato and olive lasagne, smoked pork roast and strawberry shortcake (57083)  
10.00 News, regional news and weather (6317245)  
10.15 Children's BBC: Playdays (s) (4541064) 10.25 Stopgap and Tidypup (r) (6321118) 10.35 Discovering Animals: Bats and mice (r) (4691118) 11.00 News, regional news and weather (9142286)  
11.35 The Hogan Family: Domestic comedy (9454712) 12.00 News, regional news and weather (9298880)  
12.05 Summer Scene: Carol Keating and Linda Mitchell present a new daily magazine, live from the National Garden Festival in Ebbw Vale. Today's guests are Loyd Grossman, Cyndi Lauper and the Chippies. (9291910) 12.55 Regional news and weather (6012654) 1.00 One O'Clock News: (Ceefax) Weather (41354)  
1.30 Neighbours: (Ceefax) (s) (5999267)  
1.50 Working Title: The series about the working aristocracy looks at Lady Victoria Leatham and the Countess of Mar (r) (6824170)  
2.00 Film: Soldier in the Rain (1963, b/w). Misconceived tragic-comedy starring Steve McQueen and Jackie Gleason as army sergeants looking forward to their demob. With Tuesday Weld. Directed by Ralph Nelson (9701606) 3.45 Cartoon, Red and Blue (4041248)  
3.50 Children's BBC: Best So Stories. Classic tales by Rudyard Kipling (4055441) 4.00 Chuddelevision (s) (7677985) 4.35 Pirates of Earth: Science-fiction comedy thriller (r) (5675354) 5.00 Newsround (6093151) 5.10 Active-8: Sporting activities (5639354)  
5.35 Neighbours: (Ceefax) (s) (433977) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster 6.00 Six O'Clock News: (Ceefax) Weather (538)  
6.30 Regional news magazines (118) Northern Ireland: Neighbours (r) (Ceefax)  
7.00 Noel's Addicts: Noel Edmonds meets an ardent Punch and Judy man and a couple who collect spiders. (Ceefax) (s) (9557)  
7.30 EastEnders: (Ceefax) (s) (642)  
8.00 Just Good Friends: John Sullivan's romantic comedy series starring Paul Nicholas and Jan Francis (r) (Ceefax) (5977)  
8.30 Crime Untold: A true story of a woman who was accused of the murder of her husband. For the other side of the story, see the police beat in Birkenhead. (Ceefax) (s) (7712)  
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis: (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (4606)



Playing a waiting game: Tim Healy, Chris Haywood (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Boys from the Bush: Beasts and Beauty. Lively comedy-drama about Brits in Australia. Reg (Tim Healy) and Dennis (Chris Haywood) go undercover as a cowboy and a girl. (Ceefax) (s) (949177)  
10.20 Film 82 with Barry Norman. Includes a review of Straight Talk, and a report from the set of Carry On Columbus (s) (404644)  
10.50 More Than a Game: Sold on Sport  
CHOICE: The most recent evidence offered so far by this excellent series that sport is more than a game comes in tonight's edition which looks at the increasing role of money. Frank Williams, head of the Formula One motor racing team, says: "Sports occurs on Sunday afternoons. For the other six and a half days of the week, we are a business". Some 95 per cent of the team's income comes from sponsorship. The cars have become sandwich boards and so have the drivers. Nigel Mansell's race-day outfit advertises cameras, lager, cigarettes, a car manufacturer and an oil company. The film also looks at the operations of Mark McCormack, who helps to earn huge incomes for golfers and tennis players, and, no doubt, for himself. Sebastian Coe and Jack Nicklaus, who both left the McCormack fold, voice their reservations (526506) Northern Ireland: 11.05 Film 92 with Barry Norman (542606); 11.35-12.25 More Than a Game (831335)  
11.40 Private Eye: American drama series set in 1956 Los Angeles (827672) 12.30am Weather (1587132) Ends at 12.35  
2.15 Executive Business Club (802861) Ends at 3.15

## BBC2

- 8.00 News (1474170)  
8.15 Westminster (5976606)  
9.00 Daytime on Two: Watch (8209977) 9.15 Ghostwriter (947996)  
9.45 You and Me (8354098) 10.00 Sealab is Searched (2807083)  
10.15 Zig Zag (4578118) 10.35 Square One (r) (4682460) 11.00 Langmuir and People (8595101) 11.15 Landmarks Special Reports (4973847) 12.15 Greek Language and People (8196248) 12.40 Lemniscate (1043019) 12.55 Take Nobody's Word for It (r) (5535199) 1.20 Mr Benn (r) (7225497) 1.35 Crystal Tipps and Aistair (r) (6242535) 1.40 Landmarks (59911489)  
2.00 News and weather (25489462) followed by You and Me (r) (6923414)  
2.15 A Week to Remember (b/w). Newsreel from 1952 (r) (25878758)  
2.25 The Locksmith's Art. A look at this skill through exhibits in the Victoria and Albert Museum (r) (30151037)  
2.30 See Hear! Magazine for the deaf community. With signing and subtitles (r) (1151)  
3.00 News and weather (9207170) followed by Westminster Live (5895731) 3.50 News and weather, regional news and weather (4053083)  
4.00 The Dating Game. The number of single people is increasing as a third of all marriages founder within five years. This programme looks at dating agencies (731)  
4.30 Made by Hand. A craftsman at work (r) (8793441)  
4.40 Horizon: A Question of Sport. Revelations about a secret programme by the former East German regime to produce Olympic champions by giving athletes anabolic steroids (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7122460)  
5.30 Gardeners' World with Geoff Hamilton and Liz Rigby (r) (267)  
6.00 Film: We're No Angels (1955). Gaudy comedy in which three convicts escape from Devil's Island on Christmas Eve 1895, and hide with a shopkeeper and his wife. Starring Humphrey Bogart, Aldo Ray, Peter Ustinov, Leo G. Carroll and Joan Bennett. Directed by Michael Curtiz (53770199)  
7.45 Assignment: Under the Volcano. Peter Godwin reports from the densely populated islands of Indonesia on an economically backward nation that is determined to gain world recognition and industrial clout (579373)  
8.30 Red Dwarf IV: DNA. The hapless intergalactic crew discovers the ultimate in genetic engineering technology. (Ceefax) (s) (5354)  
9.00 Quantum Leap: Rebel Without a Cause. Time-traveller Scott Bakula takes over the body of a 1950s hell-raising motor cyclist. (Ceefax) (s) (564422)



Stable mate: Luca Curnani loses his assistant (9.50pm)

- 9.50 The Rading Game: Moving On  
CHOICE: We learn tonight that while the Belmont Park course in New York stages horse-racing six times a week, Epsom has just eight days of racing a year. The statistics are not explained or embellished but they possibly relate to a consistent theme of this series, that British racing is in the doldrums and the United States is the place to go. This final programme pulls together a number of threads. Christopher Clement, assistant to trainer Luca Curnani at Newmarket, decides to set up on his own. He naturally crosses the Atlantic. Burdened by value-added tax, Tattersalls threatened to take his bloodstock sales to Ireland. A troubled year for British racing comes to an end with no one able to make a decent living out of it. The Rading Game has been illuminating, but it could sometimes have America with a sharper edge. (Ceefax) (s) (295739)  
10.30 Newsnight with Frankie Stock and Sue Cameron (535489)  
11.15 The Late Show. Ray Snoddy, media editor of The Financial Times, talks about the future of British broadcasting (489373)  
11.55 Weather (303199)  
12.00 Open University: Toulouse — Money and Power in Provincial France (29478). Ends at 12.30am

## ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (1900847)  
9.25 Cross Words (5655354) 9.55 Thames News (1289151)  
10.00 Out of This World. American comedy series (r) (99462)  
10.30 This Morning. Magazine programme featuring consumer matters and Anna Johnson giving financial advice. Inching at 10.55 ITN News headlines, and at 11.55 Thames News (4545299)  
12.10 Playbox. Last in the early evening line-up (14214737)  
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News. (Ceefax) Weather (6682199) 1.10 Thames News (62110538)  
1.20 Home and Away. Australian family drama (r) (18275083)  
1.50 A Country Practice (s). (68324538)  
2.20 The Full Treatment. The health and fitness magazine examines ways of curing pain. The guest is boxer Frank Bruno (97227170)  
2.50 Families (s) (774828): 3.15 ITN News headlines (9224847) 3.20 Thames News (9214460)  
3.25 The Young Doctors. Hospital drama (2101793)  
3.55 Children's ITV: Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends. Cartoon adventures (4049620) 4.05 Disney's Duck Tales (4557644) 4.30 Streetwise. Final episode of the drama series about bicycle couriers. (Ceefax) (441) 5.00 Cartoon Time (6028847)  
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz (1699077)  
5.40 ITN Early Evening News with Carol Barnes. (Ceefax) Weather (795554) 5.55 Thames News with Jackie Spradley (r) (578267)  
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Ceefax) (504)  
6.30 Thames News (Ceefax) (286)  
7.00 Emmerdale. (Ceefax) (423)  
7.30 Nature Watch. James Pettifer travels to the Bahamas where he learns that sharks do not warrant their fearsome reputation. (Ceefax) (170)  
8.00 The Bill: Prisoners. Sgt. Boyden (Tory O'Callaghan) and PC Hollis (Jeff Stewart) take the night shift at Sun Hill. (Ceefax) (3373)



Joker in the pack: comic Tony Gerrard, centre (8.30pm)

- 8.30 The Comedians  
CHOICE: Television is suddenly bursting with stand-up comics. The first came TV's Only Joking, in which the gags were told by members of the public. The idea was taken up by the BBC with Joker in the Pack. Now it is the turn of the professionals with a revival of the show from the 1970s which helped to launch Frank Carson, Bernard Manning and Mike Reid. The formula is unchanged and comprises a non-stop torrent of jokes from a team of comics, slickly edited and helped along by a receptive audience. There is plenty of promise in your tonight's roast, headed from Tony Gerrard and his comedians from a wheelchair. Some of the best timing comes from Eddie Colinton, who is built like Les Dawson and has a similarly lugubrious style. It may be a sign of the times that sexist jokes are out and jokes about sex very much in (2880)  
9.00 The Guilty. Second part of Simon Burke's thriller starring Michael Kitchen as an odious lawyer. (Ceefax) (2977)  
10.00 News at Ten. (Ceefax) Weather (55373) 10.30 Thames News (106628)  
10.40 The Gallery. Concluding part of the drama. (Ceefax) (273002)  
11.40 European Football Championship. A preview of tomorrow's match, live on ITV at 7pm, between host nation Sweden and France. Elton Wesley introduces the team who will provide expert analysis and commentary throughout the tournament (812335)  
12.30am Video View. A horror slot, featuring Wes Craven's People from Under the Stairs, The Addams Family and The Munsters (69720)  
1.30 The Equalizer. Starring Edward Woodward (s) (54107)  
2.30 Donahue. Phil Donahue talks to black Americans who are victimised by their own race (328474)  
3.20 Nite Bits. Late-night snacks (5282010)  
3.30 60 Minutes. American news magazine (32403)  
4.30 Rodeo Red and the Runaway. A young girl runs away from home and meets a former rodeo horse and his owner (84836)  
5.30 ITN Morning News (13861). Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (1908489) 9.25 Schools (8412588)  
12.00 The Parliament Programme. Political update (62266)  
12.30 Business Daily. City analysis (81807)  
1.00 Sesame Street. The guest is actor Robin Williams (r) (79064)  
2.00 Film: I Dood It (1943, b/w). Tedious comedy with music starring Red Skelton and Eleanor Powell. A tailor's assistant falls in love with a Hollywood actress, who marries him to spite her boyfriend. Directed by Vincent Minnelli (2118)  
4.00 The Food Files: Freshen Up. Drew Smith examines the quality of fresh food (r) (Teletext) (199)  
4.30 Fifteen to One. William G. Stewart hosts the quick-fire quiz (s) (593)  
5.00 Pushing the Limits: Sky Boogie. Daredevil parachute jumps, including free-fall, night-jumping and formation-building (r) (5731)  
5.30 Best That Mail. Scarlet challenges young people to a game of knights and castles in Nottingham (335)  
6.00 Treasure Hunt. Annabel Croft's aerial quest takes her to Lancashire (r) (Ceefax) (99528)  
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow. (Teletext) Weather (620170)  
7.50 Comment. A personal opinion (595450)  
8.00 How to Save the Earth: How Much is Enough? Jonathan Punt presents the final programme about environmental campaigns. Campaigner Lesley advises on family planning in Monaco, and American Vicki Robin challenges the belief that maternal wealth equals happiness. (Teletext) (s) (1915)  
8.30 Fat Man in Argentina. Tom Vernon's bicycle journey takes him to Patagonia (r) (Teletext) (2462)



A plea for artistic excellence: Harrison Birtwistle (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Rear Window: Running Down the Mountain  
CHOICE: The contention of this programme is that art needs to be rescued from a pluralistic idea of culture that places, say, an opera on the same level as advertisements or designer clothes. Making a plea for a return to artistic excellence, which they maintain need not be the same as elitism, are the composer Harrison Birtwistle, novelist Ian Sinclair and painter Sonia Boyce. A parallel and connected theme is that during the 1980s, the ultimate criterion for art was not its intrinsic value but its ability to attract sponsorship, be cost-efficient and compete in the market place. The above summary may suggest a rigour and consistency that the discussion does not possess. The contributors do not always stick to the main points or argue along the same lines. But it is a worthwhile attempt to tackle an important debate (857644)  
9.45 Short and Curly: The Universe of Dermot Finn. Philip Ridley wrote and directed this short drama about a young man's terrifying introduction to his girlfriend's family. With Warren Sear and Elizabeth Morton (r) (21625)  
10.00 Film: Portion d'été (1989). Robert Favreau's thoughtful drama continues the Cinema Canada season. Danielle Proulx and Marc Messier play a couple in their thirties who turn to medical science when they are unable to conceive a child. In French with English subtitles. (Teletext) (s) (220348)  
11.45 Empty Nest. American comedy series (r) (469793)  
12.15am The Schoenberg Cycle. The Schoenberg Quartet performs the String Trio, Op. 45 (s) (9220923)  
12.40 Film: Vanessa, Her Love Story (1935, b/w). Crazy romantic drama about a woman who falls in love with a gypsy when her husband becomes mentally unstable. Starring Helen Hayes, Robert Montgomery and Charles Kruger. Directed by William K. Howard (9319799) Ends at 2.00

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## SATellite

- SKY ONE**  
Via the Astra and Mariposita satellites.  
6.00am The Di Ki Show (19909557) 8.00 Mrs Pepperpot (1652560) 8.55 Lamb Chop's Play-a-long (5213083) 9.30 The Pyramid Game (49151) 10.00 Let's Make a Deal (69286) 10.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (66688) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (10360) 12.00 So Beethoven (24538) 1.00 News (81980) 1.30 Ceefax (56489) 2.30 Another World (7723170) 3.15 The Body Bunch (867286) 3.45 The Di Ki Show (4309986) 5.00 Jack and the Beanstalk (536) 5.30 Different Strokes (8380) 6.00 Love at First Sight (3903) 6.30 E Street (4371) 7.00 All About (9489) 7.30 Cando Camera (3147) 8.00 Film: The Human Factor (1979) A British double agent is forced to defect (52335)  
10.00 Studio 54 (94809) 10.30 Defective (16177) 11.00 J.J. Starbuck (91373) 12.00 Pops from Sytard (11590)

## SKY NEWS

- Via the Astra and Mariposita satellites.  
6.00am News (2535338) 9.30 Nightline (32557) 10.00 Dayline (67828) 10.30 Newsround (42285) 11.30 Japan Business Today (4733915) 12.30pm Good Morning America (46002) 1.30 Good Morning America (47731) 2.30 Parliament Live (721712) 3.30 Parliament Live (283118) 4.30 Beyond 2000 (6070) 5.00 Live at Five (92581) 6.30 Newsline (89339) 11.30 ABC News (58977) 12.30am Newsline (10478) 1.30 ABC News (41223) 2.30 Target (70774) 3.30 ABC News (82519) 4.30 Beyond 2000 (37942) 5.30 Newsline (60749)

## SKY MOVIES+

- Via the Astra and Mariposita satellites.  
6.00am Sky Movies Plus Showcase (3734083)  
10.00 Fatal Judgment (1980). Tom Conti defends a nurse accused of murder (48947)

## SKY SPORTS

- Via the Astra and Mariposita satellites.  
6.30am Morning Stretch (59889) 7.00 Super Star (6534) 8.00 Motor World (20339) 8.30 WFF Body Stars (29505) 9.00 Morning Stretch (32880) 9.30 Tennis (20267) 11.30 Morning Stretch (65977) 12.00 Motor World (20339) 12.30am Live at Five (92581) 1.30 ABC News (58977) 2.30 Target (70774) 3.30 ABC News (82519) 4.30 Beyond 2000 (37942) 5.30 Newsline (60749)  
6.00am Sky Sports (1980). Tom Conti defends a nurse accused of murder (48947)

## EUROSPORT

- Via the Astra satellites.  
6.00am Rhythmic Gymnastics (15489) 10.00 Tennis: French Open (3418077) 1.30pm Duetball Paris (69712) 2.00 Tennis ATP Tour (68977) 3.00 Rhythmic Gymnastics (52959) 4.00 Tennis: French Open (3418077) 5.30am Olympic: The Road to Barcelona (2793) 6.30 Mountainbike (63731) 7.00 News (15489) 7.30 Athletics (97600) 10.00 Football (60054) 11.30 News (52666)

## SCREENSPORT

- Via the Astra satellites.  
6.00am Euro Sports (1980). Tom Conti defends a nurse accused of murder (48947)

## THE MOVIE CHANNEL

- Via the Astra and Mariposita satellites.  
6.15am The Tender Trap (1955). Sinatra plays a philandering bachelor (640286)  
11.15 The Dragon. That Almost Wasn't (1963). A baby dragon is confused (948170)  
9.45 The Inn of the Sixth Happiness (1958). Ingrid Bergman as the English woman who became a nun (6346160)  
12.25pm Bloodhounds of Broadway (1946). A farce set in New York on New Year's Eve (65573)  
2.15 Slonik Showdown (1989). A new adventure for the espionage man (440444)  
4.15 Ninja. The Hidden Boy (1985). Animated adventure (972422)  
6.15 Lady in a Corner (1989). An editor uses to prevent a takeover (88323409)  
8.05 Mister Pross (1990). A captured serial killer telling the truth (17031151)  
9.50 American Friends (1991). Michael Keaton plays a doctor in a comedy about his great grandfather's diaries (35288)  
11.30 Q & A (1990). Nick Nolte plays a doctor who becomes a musician (6346160)  
1.45pm Full Moon in Blue Water (1988). A lover starts winning (216854)  
3.20 Hardcover (1989). A woman's nightmare seen from the inside (415404)  
5.30 The Comedy Channel

## THE COMEDY CHANNEL

- Via the Astra satellites.  
6.00pm Mr Ed (2049) 6.30 Punky Brewster (1450) 5.00 Green Acres (1118) 5.30 The New Leave It to Beaver (2712) 6.00 Mr. Belvedere (9925) 6.30 The Brady Bunch (7967) 7.00 F Troop (4354) 7.30 McMillan's Wife (9489) 8.00 Are You Being Served? (9489) 8.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 9.00 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 9.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 10.00 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 10.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 11.00 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 11.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 12.00 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 12.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489)

## LIFESTYLE

- Via the Astra satellites.  
6.00am Getting Fit (16118) 10.00 Jokers Wild (148262) 11.00 Body Talk (1622880) 11.25 Search for Tomorrow (1660064) 1.15 Sally Jessy Raphael (1660064) 1.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 1.55 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 2.00 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 2.15 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 2.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 2.45 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 3.00 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 3.15 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 3.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 3.45 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 4.00 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 4.15 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 4.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 4.45 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 5.00 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 5.15 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 5.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 5.45 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 6.00 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 6.15 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 6.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 6.45 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 7.00 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 7.15 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 7.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 7.45 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 8.00 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 8.15 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 8.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 8.45 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 9.00 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 9.15 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 9.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 9.45 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 10.00 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 10.15 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 10.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 10.45 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 11.00 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 11.15 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 11.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 11.45 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 12.00 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 12.15 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489) 12.30 The Dick Van Dyke Show (9489)

## RADIO 1

- FM Stereo and MW. 4.00am Bruno Brookes (94) only with The Early Breakfast Show. 6.00 Simon Mayo 5.00 Simon Mayo 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Jaki Brambles 3.00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 6.00 Mark Goodier's Mega Hit 6.30 News 92 7.00 Mark Goodier's Evening Show 9.00 Ben Coulson, the second of a four part series. R10 Down on the Accelerator (s) 10.00 The Big Breakfast. Gail Porter 12.00-4.00am Bob Harris (FM only)

## RADIO 2

- FM Stereo. 4.00am Alan Lester: The Early Show 6.15 Pause for Thought 6.30 News 6.45 Morning Mail 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Greenwood 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The Call of the Wild 8.00 The Story of All Boys 9.00 The Story of All Girls 10.00 The Story of All Children 11.00 The Story of All Teenagers 12.00 The Story of All Young People 1.00 The Story of All Adults 2.00 The Story of All Old People 3.00 The Story of All Very Old People 4.00 The Story of All Extremely Old People 5.00 The Story of All Immortals 6.00 The Story of All Gods 7.00 The Story of All Demigods 8.00 The Story of All Heroes 9.00 The Story of All Villains 10.00 The Story of All Monsters 11.00 The Story of All Demons 12.00 The Story of All Devils 1.00 The Story of All Angels 2.00 The Story of All Saints 3.00 The Story of All Prophets 4.00 The Story of All Seers 5.00 The Story of All Wizards 6.00 The Story of All Magicians 7.00 The Story of All Sorcerers 8.00 The Story of All Wizards 9.00 The Story of All Magicians 10.00 The Story of All Sorcerers 11.00 The Story of All Wizards 12.00 The Story of All Magicians 1.00 The Story of All Sorcerers 2.00 The Story of All Wizards 3.00 The Story of All Magicians 4.00 The Story of All Sorcerers 5.00 The Story of All Wizards 6.00 The Story of All Magicians 7.00 The Story of All Sorcerers 8.00 The Story of All Wizards 9.00 The Story of All Magicians 10.00 The Story of All Sorcerers 11.00 The Story of All Wizards 12.00 The Story of All Magicians

## RADIO 5

- News and sport on the hour until 7.00pm. 7.00am World Service: Newsround 6.30 Danny Baker's Morning Edition 9.00 For Today 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 6.00 News